

THE GATEWAY

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U-Pass price increase gets approval

SEAN STEELS
Senior News Editor

Edmonton city councillors in the Transportation and Public Works Committee have approved the next step forward in the U-Pass program, which will see a phased-in price increase of nearly 60 per cent from its current rate of \$81.

The price will increase by approximately \$15 annually until the 2013/14 school year, when it will reach \$129. The U-Pass is currently six months from completing its three-year pilot program, which first asked students to pay \$75 for the service.

Students' Union Vice President (Student Life) Nick Dehod was on hand to present to the committee, accompanied by Graduate Students' Association President Jen Nicole Landry. Although both in opposition to the increase in principle, they spoke strongly in favour of the collaboration with the transit authorities involved and University administration to ensure the best deal for students.

"As a student, it's unfortunate to see the price go up, but we feel that this allows us to ensure that this program remains sustainable for students as well as municipalities," Dehod said.

The surety of the proposed increase was also unknown, as now that prices have been established, any institution wishing to adopt the new program must see the decision through a student-body-wide referendum.

"While I understand the financial pressures the city is under, I'm unsure of how students will react when this goes to referendum. Most of the reaction has been mixed," he added.

Because of overwhelming success and adoption of the U-Pass by students, the program cost the city and its already-subsidized transit system \$6.6 million in 2008. In order for the program to break even in the 2010/11 school year, students would have to pay \$195 per term.

The new set of prices were determined based on current ETS fare policy, according to which students cannot be charged over 30 per cent of basic adult bus fare — currently \$2.50.

The steady price increase over the next four years also takes into consideration a planned increase of basic bus fare to \$3 in the year 2014. The presently agreed upon price increase will bring that cost to 27.1 per cent of adult fare by 2014.

Landry defended the program for being bold in the face of budget deficit.

"This program is bigger than just a transit pass. This is environmentally beneficial. It takes cars off the road, reduces greenhouse gases, all of these things that are intrinsic to the nature and philosophy of our graduate students. This is the start of an expansion of [transit] services," she said.

Her enthusiasm carried to the potential for a summer extension to the U-Pass project, which currently runs from September to April.

"89 per cent of graduate students [at the U of A] are in favour of a spring/summer U-Pass," she said, referencing a survey done by the GSA.

PLEASE SEE **U-PASS** ♦ PAGE 2



PETE YEE

ON THE MOVE The city's TPW committee has cleared U-Pass price increases, but student referenda will ultimately decide whether they're adopted.

Pecha Kucha challenges city's next generation to act

BRENDAN CAVANAGH
News Writer

More than 550 young Edmontonians filled the Myer Horowitz Theatre last Friday for Pecha Kucha Night 5, a series of 10, exactly six-minute-40-second-long presentations discussing community topics such as design and architecture, urban planning, and local participation.

Next Gen, the Edmonton group that stages the event, is focused on representing the voice of citizens aged 18–40 in the city, encouraging them to get involved in, and help shape their community. The organization itself is comprised of city employees and representatives from the Edmonton community leagues who work together to meet their mandate. One of the ways in which they try to raise community awareness in young people is through Pecha Kucha Nights such as these.

Pecha Kucha translates from Japanese to "the sound of conversation," or "chit-chat." The intention of the event, initiated by architects Astrid Klein and Mark Dytham, was to provide a forum in which young designers could quickly exchange their ideas.

Every presentation consists of 20 slides, each of which is shown for 20 seconds. The break-neck pace is intended to keep speakers concise and to the point.

Put on in association with the University of Alberta's Alumni Week, "Old school" was the theme of the night — a fitting choice, or as Students' Union President Kory Mathewson characteristically put it, "What's more 'old-school' than the alumni association?"



NEIL KUEFLER

TALKING POINTS Pecha Kucha Night uses quick slideshows to stir up debate on current events.

There was a significant variety of topics brought to the stage during the night, ranging from green development and sustainability to the humanitarian work of United Way in Edmonton. Presenters included Christian Nelson, who has perpetuated the city's culture through events like dEdmonton, and his efforts to model and demonstrate its architecture to the world via Google Earth.

Also on the program was former U of A SU president Michael Janz who discussed the community work being done through the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues. He ended the presentation with words of encouragement for his generation.

"We're inheriting the keys to the community; it's as much ours as anyone else," he said

PLEASE SEE **COMMUNITY** ♦ PAGE 4

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Heavy-handed metal

Take a whirlwind headbanging tour of Europe's underground metal scene with Gabby Riches. Bring earplugs.

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Light-footed mettle

Pandas basketball squad will defend the hardwood this weekend at the Hoopfest invitational. Bring airhorns.

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Revolutionary festival to rise up today

CONOR KERR
News Writer

Everyone's favourite revolutionary is back in town for the Thanksgiving weekend. The Ernesto Che Guevara festival will be setting up in Edmonton's cold climate to spread a little revolutionary heat.

Even if you're not a rabble-rouser, but just someone interested in checking out the icon whose face is posted on so many flags, t-shirts, and posters, this is a great opportunity to find out about the man behind the image.

"A lot of people have an understanding of who Che Guevara is, and a lot of people know the image, but not a lot of people know what he stood for really, truthfully, honestly, what his ideals were, and what he

did to contribute to society," said Rod Loyola, a member of the People's Poets, a local socially active rap group which organized the festival.

The event is the second of its kind in Edmonton. The first took place two years ago. This year's kicks off Thursday night with a panel discussion on the pedagogy of Ernesto Che Guevara. The discussion is taking place here on campus, and is free to attendees.

Next up is a celebration of resistance party being held at the ARTery Friday night at 9:00 p.m. The party features talented revolutionary hip-hop artists and musicians such as Aroot's Bazaar, Cenzi Stilos, DJ Dice, People's Poets, and headliner SPIN el poeta. Tickets are available at the door for \$8.

"What we're trying to do is go into

a deeper level of understanding of how [Guevara] saw society, and how he saw progressive, transformative change occurring," Loyola said.

Following the party, a film festival is being held Saturday at the Stanley A. Milner library downtown. The film festival is playing both parts of the Benicio del Toro film *Che: A Revolutionary Life*.

This will be the second chance for Edmontonians to catch the film, which has already played at the Garneau Theatre. The movie is divided into two parts concerning Che's revolutionary activities in Cuba and eventually in Bolivia, and begins at noon.

More information about the event is available at the festival's website, edmontonlovesche.blogspot.com.

LRT expansion incentive for institutions

U-PASS ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

But enthusiasm for the program, and for the proposed price increase may not be spreading as quickly on other campuses. Geoffrey Tate, President of the NAIT Students' Association, pointed out that for students not attending the U of A, benefits were not nearly as tangible.

"ETS' stance is understandable but unfortunate. When we surveyed our students last year, a very large percentile were in favour of it, but at this new price point, that number is going to go down for sure," he said.

"Our biggest hang-up is paying more than U of A students would when they have a transit terminal,

and an LRT extension," he said. "We don't want to pay for first class and ride coach."

Like other postsecondary institutions, NAIT's adoption of the program will now depend on the results of a student referendum. NAIT's is in February, while the U of A and Grant MacEwan hold theirs along with student elections in March. Tate still pointed to the positives that could come from creating a more transit-friendly infrastructure within the city, referencing the newly announced expansion of Edmonton's LRT to NAIT and Grant MacEwan.

Tate's sentiments were echoed by Grant MacEwan Students' Association

President Nils Holmgren.

"I want to emphasize that I support this program, but it still needs work. If we're taking \$1,000 over four years from a single mother struggling to pay tuition, that's not fair," he said, referencing the current stipulation of the program's continuation that student opt-outs were not financially feasible.

But consensus remains that despite price increases and possibly imperfect implementation of the program, it still cuts students quite the deal on public transportation.

"Even if you look at the final year," Dehod said. "If a student is only using the U-Pass twice a week for a round trip, they're getting a benefit from it."

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Sam Brooks**Kyle Lapointe**
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Education III**Sarah Erikson**
Genetics III**As you may be aware, U-Pass price will increase \$15 a year over the next four years to \$129 per term. Would you still support the program, and why?**

I do because it gives me the opportunity to use city transit. Without the pass, transit would cost a lot more. The U-Pass is one of the reasons I came to the University of Alberta.

I'm all for it because any price reduction is sweet in my mind. I mean price reduction in comparison to a monthly bus pass. It's still increasing, but it's still under the monthly price.

I'm for it as long as there's documentation of evidence that students are actually using public transportation. If there's way more students driving to school, then it's not beneficial at all. [...] I'm 103 per cent for it.

Who cares? It's \$15. I'll pay that.

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Bar's cash promotion controversial

ALEXANDRIA ELDRIDGE
CUP Alberta and Northern Bureau Chief

EDMONTON (CUP) — A marketing strategy put on by an Edmonton bar where students receive cash upon entry has become a disputed topic in the community.

If a student shows identification before 10 p.m. at the door of the Union Hall on a “student night” — usually Thursdays — they receive \$10 cash and a token that they can redeem for another \$10 cash at 12:30 a.m., when a money table is brought out.

Jesse James is the director of operations for the nightclub side at Gateway Entertainment, which operates Union Hall. He described how the idea of the promotion came about.

“This year, we wanted to really come out of September with a bang and just go for a really crazy incentive, especially in light of the recent competition and in light of the economic situation,” James said.

He also described the promotion as a response to new Alberta liquor laws on minimum drink prices.

“We’re not allowed to give away free booze of any kind, so the only thing we’re legally allowed to give is cash. So the cash is more geared towards getting people a couple drinks essentially for free. You don’t have to buy drinks, but that’s the idea of it,” James said.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving have expressed their disapproval of the promotion, saying that it encourages binge drinking. Gladys Shelstad, vice-president of the Edmonton and area chapter, wants owners to be more responsible.

“More my concern is that they put minimum drink pricing in effect for a reason and bars should be abiding by that. They should be wanting all their patrons to be safe,” Shelstad said.

James said that regardless of whether or not they give away cash at the door, they are always aware of patrons’ safety.

“Whether we give them 20 bucks or they’re just spending their own money, we have to always be aware of someone’s level of intoxication,” James said.

James also noted that the promotion is more geared towards back-to-school and was intended to get people down to the Union. The club was renovated over the summer and now has a new DJ.

“The nightclub business is all about change and all about keeping cutting-edge, so we have a couple other cool ideas in the works to follow up this promotion when we do decide to end it.”

At this point in time, the Union Hall is the only establishment employing the promotion. The Ranch, another Gateway Entertainment establishment, closed its doors on October 1, ending the promotion at that location. Shelstad feels that there is a reason that other establishments are not following suit.

“I think the respectable bars are going to still maintain the liquor bylaws and they are going to enforce it and be respectable,” she said.

Shelstad also mentioned that this promotion is only available for students, which might upset other patrons.

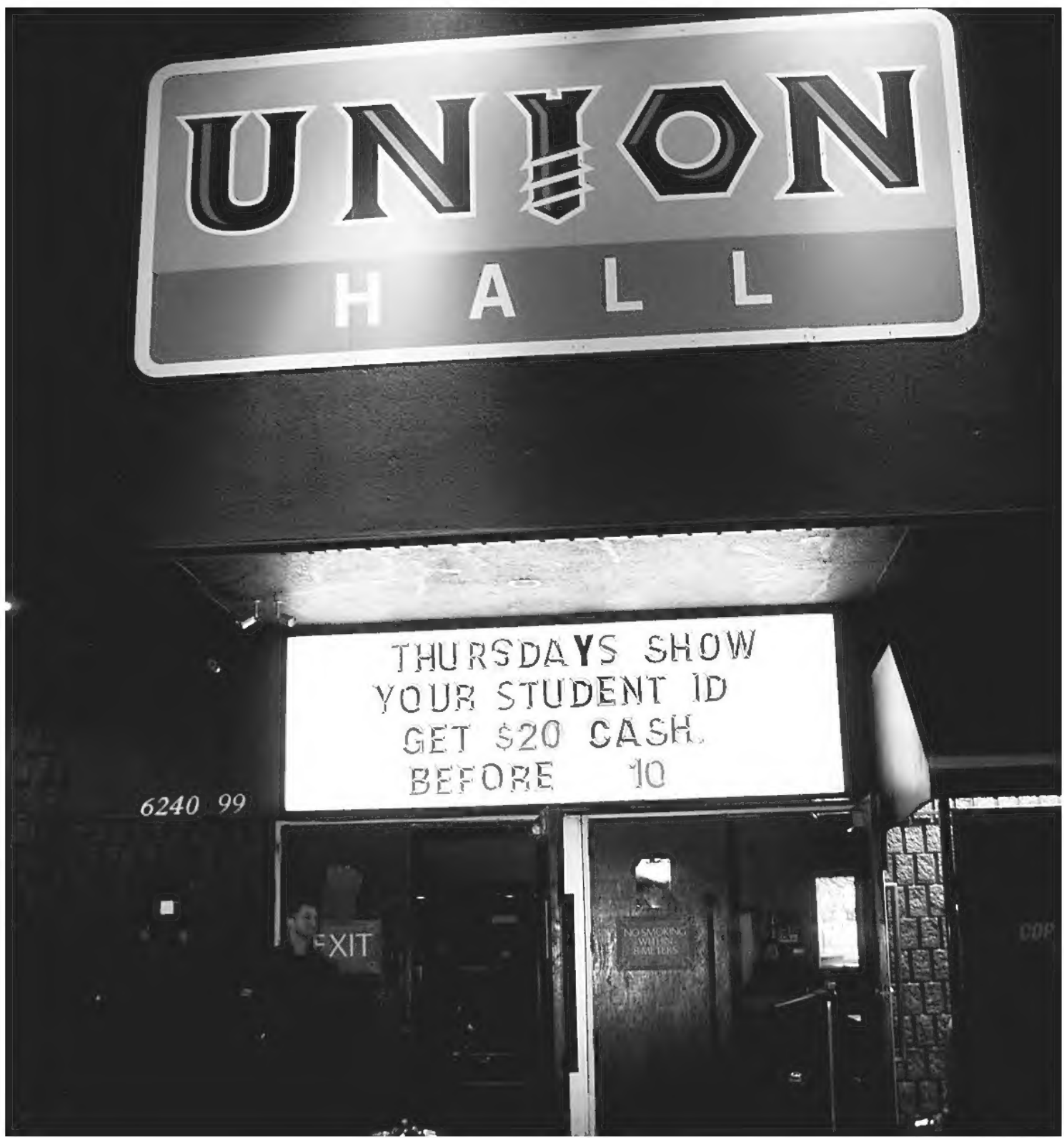
“There’s a lot of other customers, a lot of other patrons out there than just students. That bar is showing favoritism for students over other patrons,” Shelstad said.

She noted though, that the key message is responsibility.

“These people that take the money from the bar, are they going to go and drink more and indulge quickly and in large amounts? I don’t know. I’m hoping not; I hope that everyone drinks responsibly because at the end of the day, we want you guys all to be safe,” Shelstad said.

But James stressed that whether MADD was concerned about excluding non-students or presenting dangerous drinking options to those who were, no one was being forced to spend money on drinking, and everyone needed to make their own choices.

“I think that these choices are at our fingertips in all walks of life and in all things, and I think that people have to be held accountable for their own actions.”



PAID TO PARTY This promotion is in reaction to legislation banning free drinks. SUPPLIED

Research shows music eases babies’ pain

SAM ADIMORA
News Writer

It can be difficult to imagine how a premature infant perceives the pain of stressful medical procedures, but a University of Alberta study on methods to alleviate this anxiety has uncovered positive results.

A large number of doctors play music to premature babies as a pain-killing aid and a health benefit, but it’s been uncertain if music concretely benefits the infants. During painful procedures, lullabies sung by a female voice are thought to soothe the babies and help ease their pain.

Dr. Manoj Kumar and his colleagues have carried out nine studies to scientifically verify that the widespread effort of playing music actually helps relieve premature infants of pain and stress during these procedures.

“At least one group of kids were getting music, and at least one group were not getting music, and these were randomly selected,” Kumar said. “You didn’t know beforehand which is going to get music and which is not going to get music.”

The researchers played music in six out of the nine studies.

“Three of them were when the baby was getting heel poked, which is a common way of getting blood samples.

Three of them were when the baby was getting circumcision. The other three were not during the baby stimuli, they were while the baby was in the unit,” Kumar explained.

“What we’ve noticed is a lot of these studies have documented benefits in terms of physiological benefits; heart rate is more stable when the baby is going through a painful procedure,” he added. “We have found less fluctuation in the oxygen saturations, so they were more stable. There was also some sort of behavioral index: how we look at the baby and sense if it’s too much in discomfort or comfortable, and some of the benefits show that the babies were feeling less pain.”

When premature babies are born, they’re fed through a tube that is connected through the mouth and nose. There is a phase about six to eight weeks before the due date that they make a transition from dependency on being fed through a tube to being orally fed. Kumar has found that babies were able to make this transition faster when music was played as they were fed orally. However one limitation in the studies is that the research didn’t track whether or not the babies went home sooner. It was only determined that the feeds were completed earlier.

“In the future, when we are going to do a study, we should also test for



PETE YEE

SOOTHING SOUNDS Kumar looked at other research to confirm his own.

those meaningful outcomes that we have highlighted as limitations for the existing studies.”

Kumar stated that he has carefully reviewed the subject and ulterior interests haven’t affected the results. Only about nine out of 1,000 hits matched the minimum design that they wanted for a reasonable quality of evidence.

“It is called a systematic review because you go very systematically, looking for all the available published literature on this subject, which not only includes medical journals, but would also include a lot of pieces sitting in the libraries.”

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MACHIDA VERSUS SHOGUN

Gambling problems inhibit prisoner reintegration

DEREK SCHUTZ
News Writer

The scene in *Ocean's Eleven* where George Clooney's character goes straight from jail to a Las Vegas casino may be akin to reality according to a new study that suggests gambling may prevent offenders from reintegrating into society.

The study was funded by the Alberta Gaming Research Institute, a consortium of the University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and the University of Lethbridge. The investigation was done by D.J. Williams, a professor at California State University, who interviewed 15 correctional professionals in Nevada and Utah who had worked with offenders on their re-entry into society.

"We had some supervisors, we had a few administrators, some of them had been working in corrections for 12 to 15 years," Williams said. "Basically, we asked them about gambling with offenders and gambling in prison."

After weeding out biased responses, what they suggested was that gambling issues may be under-addressed at best, and overlooked at worst.

"They mentioned that, particularly in Utah, they don't even consider gambling issues," Williams said. "In Nevada they were much more aware for the potential of gambling problems."

This may be due to the fact that Utah is one of the few states where gambling is illegal, while it's promoted in its neighbour Nevada. However, the real finding was that neither state had any suitable program for dealing with gambling-related issues during or after incarceration, and many expected that it would be solved with



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: NEIL KUEFLER

AND EVERY HAND'S A LOSER Gambling among former inmates hurts their efforts to re-establish themselves in society.

other programs.

"Almost all of our participants in both states acknowledged that there just weren't resources available to treat gambling for offenders that was affordable and accessible," Williams said. "That really surprised us because we thought in Nevada, where there is such a potential for problems, they would have some things in place."

This was all the more unexpected given that in many cases, gambling was associated with substance abuse or crime. For example, in some cases, offenders had stolen property, sometimes from family members, and pawned it off to get enough money to

support their gambling.

"With offenders, it's tough enough," Williams said. "This is a huge issue in terms of regaining trust and establishing a positive social support network to keep them living crime-free."

Williams has some suggestions to go along with his criticisms though. First, he suggests better detection of problem gamblers on the part of correctional facilities.

"Corrections institutions really need to do some kind of an efficient screening with offenders and there are a number of cheap instruments that can do that," he said. "It would be quite easy to do."

According to Williams, who will

be making more recommendations in future reports, another potential solution is to reconsider the way leisure time and resources are allocated in prisons.

"A lot of the recreation and leisure programs have been cut in prisons and jails," Williams said. "It was probably a big mistake to cut those programs and we should probably be building healthy recreation activities so there's not that motivation for gambling."

Some of these suggestions may even effect policy change as Williams' research is reaching an ever wider group of correctional professionals. If that's the case, the Daniel Oceans of the world may yet have some hope.

Conversation part of series hosted four times a year

COMMUNITY • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

M.C. Cary Williams and city councillor Don Iveson, who attended as an opening speaker, both emphasized the possibility for young people to bring about change in their community, and the inspiration that these speakers provide.

"Edmonton is a city we can change," Williams said.

Music for the event was provided by Aaron Levin of Weird Canada, and former CJSR music director. A considerable number of half-pound bags of coffee were drawn as prizes.

The night wrapped up with ideas from Edmonton's Supporting a Green Economy, presented by Tad Hargrave. E-SAGE stressed the importance of "local-scale" economics and the support of Edmonton businesses such as the Remedy Cafe, or community organizations like the Edmonton Farmer's Market. Hargrave left off with words from Judy Wicks and the Local Living Economies Movement.

"We want our bucks, not Starbucks; our mart, not Wal-Mart; community worth, not Woolworth; valuing life over lifestyle, and as the Earth Charter says, 'Being more, not having more,'" he said.

Pecha Kucha Night is supposed to take place four times annually in Edmonton, though the date of the next one is yet to be announced. The last one took place at the Shaw Conference Centre in June.



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Canada

Undergraduate study finds texting doesn't handicap spelling ability

BRENDAN CAVANAGH
News Writer

A study conducted at the University of Alberta on the effects of instant messaging on teens' spelling has been making headlines since its publication in May, but one detail that has been attracting less attention is that the researchers were in fact undergraduate psychology students.

"They were just curious, and they were very successful," said Connie Varnhagen, a professor in the Department of Psychology, who supervised the study along with graduate teaching assistant Peggy McFall.

The research was both initiated and conducted by three undergraduates from a Psychology 323 (Perceptual and Cognitive Development) class in the fall of 2007, namely Nicole Pugh, Lisa Routledge, and Heather Sumida-Macdonald. At the beginning of the semester, the students were asked to come up with a research project idea, and this one caught Varnhagen's attention.

The study itself involved the analysis of instant messages sent by 40 teenage students — mostly siblings of the psychology class members — over the course of a week, and a standardized spelling test written by each of the subjects.

Pugh, Routledge, and Sumida-Macdonald then spent the summer of 2008 analyzing the data and creating a "chatspeak" (as the slang spelling is being called) taxonomy. What they determined defied the common misconception that chatspeak would negatively impact spelling.

"Contrary to what the media and parents might argue, spelling ability was not highly correlated with new language use in instant messaging," the group reported in their lab write-up.

Linguistic and educational implications aside, the study opens up a whole new set of questions in which other researchers are starting to take interest. Varnhagen herself is considering the effect that chatspeak may have on different mediums of communication. Other points of interest are the gender



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DAN MCKECHNIE

OMG UGRD RSRCH The wide array of abbreviations and acronyms utilized in text messaging and online chats is thought of as a new form of communication.

differences in chatspeak use (boys tended to use excessive punctuation and vulgarity, while girls abbreviate avidly), and the fact that commonly misspelled words fared better in chatspeak ("shoulda" was never spelled phonetically as "shuda").

"We prefer to view electronic communication as both a new, complementary language to conventional written language and a natural experiment in the development of written communication," the students reported.

That these students were able to publish their study as undergraduates is a significant feat in itself. This sort of hands-on research experience, while being extremely beneficial for those considering graduate school,

is nevertheless difficult to attain for most undergrads, with the exception of honours students. The task becomes impossible without the proper infrastructure such as qualified research advisors and funding.

"They managed to pull it off beautifully," Varnhagen said in regards to the students' work.

Fortunately for this team of researchers, those usual obstacles did not apply. Varnhagen and McFall provided advice on ethics and helped in writing the final manuscript. Funding was unnecessary to conduct the investigation.

The study was published in the May issue of *Journal of Reading and Writing* under the title "Lo!: new language and spelling in instant messaging."

Filipinos await news from ravaged country

MIRIELLE TARCHA
The Link (Concordia University)

MONTREAL (CUP) — Canada's Filipino community could only wait and worry as Typhoon Ketsana made landfall in the Philippines on September 26. The news was grim; Manila was hit by the heaviest rains in its modern history, and flooding killed at least 288 people across the country.

A week later, the mood at Bagong Alyansang Makabayan Montreal — the city's branch of the Filipino New Patriotic Alliance, a leftist political coalition — was still sombre. Another typhoon, Parma, narrowly missed Manila on October 3, but still hit the rural north of the Philippines.

"Manila was just saved from devastation," described Joey Callugay, the head of BAYAN Montreal. "People now are concentrating on getting food and water to affected communities, and sifting through the rubble of their homes, but we are still in shock."

Callugay said his family was safe and credits that to the fact that they live on higher ground, but many families in Montreal have been affected. Flooding in rural areas was reported as high as 20 feet, stranding people on their

roofs for days.

"The waters have just begun to recede and cadavers are side by side with the people who survived. They haven't been buried yet and they won't be until things get settled," Callugay explained.

"People now are concentrating on getting food and water to affected communities and sifting through the rubble of their homes, but we are still in shock."

JOEY CALLUGAY
HEAD OF BAYAN MONTREAL

He added that sanitation and the lack of clean water are the most pressing problems.

BAYAN has joined with the People's Cooperation for the People relief effort — also known as Balsa — to deliver

desperately needed supplies and money to the devastated nation.

The situation has also exposed the inadequacy of the Filipino government's disaster response capability. According to BAYAN, the Filipino military only has 13 rubber boats to help people stuck on rooftops or trapped by flood waters.

The lack of resources is a serious problem for a country made up of 7,000 islands and 90 million people.

Although people may want to donate food or other non-perishables, Callugay said that giving money is the better option.

"Cargo would take months to arrive there," he explained.

BAYAN is accepting donations through PayPal, where people can suggest how they want the money to be spent: on food, goods, water, or medical help.

At a town hall meeting in Montreal on October 4, Callugay explained the situation to some of the 25,000 members of Montreal's Filipino community and asked them for fundraising ideas. An uplink to volunteers on the ground in the Philippines allowed for direct communication between the two communities.



FACT:

The average four-year-old child asks over 400 questions a day.

FACT:

The average *Gateway* News writer asked over 400,000 questions a day when they were four.

GATEWAY NEWS

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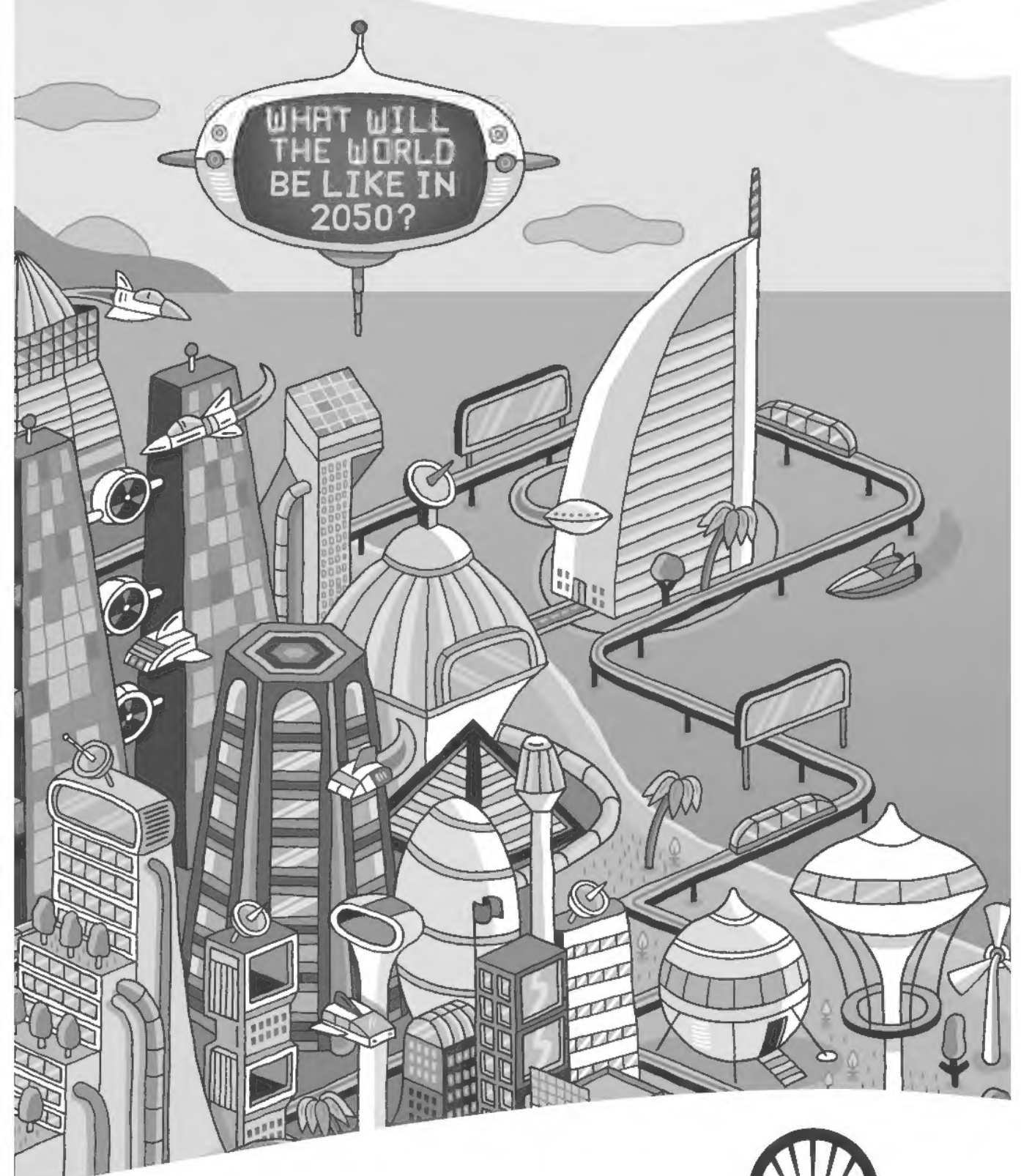
News Meetings Fridays at 3 p.m. in 3-04 SUB
newsies@gateway.ualberta.ca

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Many the miles to go before drunk drivers get the hint

RANDOM BREATHALYZER TESTS MAY SOON BE added to the arsenal of Canada's police in an effort to hinder the damage done by drunk drivers. Justice Minister Rob Nicholson noted the possibility at a recent meeting of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, to the praise of that organization. The tactic is credited with drastically reducing fatalities in other countries, but many people were quick to oppose the measure that could potentially save their lives, or those of their loved ones.

While subtracting from the 2,500 body bags that come into Canadian morgues each year as a result of the dangerous practice seems like a cause nearly everyone would support, this particular proposal doesn't sit well with many Canadians. Opponents accuse it of infringing on civil liberties that protect against unreasonable search and seizure, and see it as "guilty until proven innocent." Critics might also point to the right to privacy of the body and its health.

Without any proposed legislation to cite, discussion on the issue so far is purely speculative as to what exactly "random" tests would entail. However, the possibility should sink into the public mindset, and contribute to the mantra that under no circumstances should impaired driving be permitted.

Admittedly, such legislation could start the crumbling of a slippery slope of preventative measures. But individual liberties should be preserved as long as they pertain to the individual. What critics seem to miss, however, is that driving is not at all such a case.

Owning and operating a vehicle isn't a guaranteed right, and is especially not one affecting solely the individual. Driving indicates consent to an implicit contract to follow the rules of the road: staying in a lane or stopping at red lights aren't just for the driver's benefit. Alcohol inhibits an individual's ability to do any of those things.

Driving while inebriated constitutes a conscious decision to violate, or at least risk violating, the rights of fellow citizens "to life, liberty, and security of the person" guaranteed in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Drunk drivers are arguably on their way to hurting others when they get behind the wheel. They're in the process of committing a crime.

Entering the public domain of a roadway is similar to boarding an airplane. Few object to the comprehensive screening of metal detectors and security checks at airports. Guilt isn't implied by such investigation — it's just a means of preventing harm to innocent people. So why is this helpful attitude not applied towards road authorities who merely wish to establish a similar level of safety?

Recent statistics indicate that on any given night, 25 per cent of Canadian drivers have consumed alcohol, and six per cent are legally impaired. If six per cent of airline passengers were attempting to bring loaded guns onto planes, random checks to stop the trend could hardly be called an invasion of privacy. It's time people adopt the same tendency towards safety in other areas of the public realm.

The police can't be everywhere at once, and indeed shouldn't be, as real change can only come from the people directly affected. Which thus includes any Canadian who drives, rides in a car, is a pedestrian, cyclist, or cares about anyone who does those things. So in a word — everyone.

The balance between individual autonomy and public security is one that can't be reasonably achieved with such a destructive yet entirely avoidable action. Attitudes towards the practice seem to be changing, especially among younger generations where it's fast becoming a social taboo. If legislation like this passes, its best result would be to foster the mindset that driving isn't about the individual, and drunk driving is socially unacceptable.

Increased police capacity, harsher punishments and perhaps random breathalyzers just might prevent these criminal motorists from bringing their weapons onto our roads and killing innocent people — and that should be worth a 30-second delay on your commute.

JONATHAN TAVES
Deputy News Editor



MIKE KENDRICK

letters TO THE eds

Call on the grammar-phone, line one

Fortunately and somewhat ironically, your article (*Student's face an apostrophe castastrophe*, October 1) is pretty much error free (except for a few extraneous commas,) so I'm not really sure why you are taking this position. Does good grammar come naturally to you, or do you value it after all?

Your argument that English is a changing, living language is a typical one. In reality, it's just an excuse to be lazy. Believe it or not, but bad grammar does it make it more difficult to understand what someone is trying to communicate. Since many people are not very clear to start with, bad grammar just compounds the problem.

You say that we all manage to understand each other despite our grammatical inaccuracy. I don't know whether you have an uncanny ability to understand people or you mistakenly think that you understand them, but communication between people is often not as clear as you believe. Just ask some of your professors about their experiences when grading students' papers.

JOEL CURRIE
Alumnus

Predicating trouble

We should probably wait until we are obese to start dieting. We should wait until the economy crashes entirely before we start worrying about spending. Oh, no, wait — that's not right. Then why would we wait until "such time as verbal grammatical mistakes actually start commonly interfering with comprehension" for the "grammar Nazis" to start caring? Perhaps grammar Nazis are wrong when they claim that language is falling into a state of decay, but the reason that it hasn't fallen already is that there are people who care about it. If nobody cared, we would quickly lose our ability to communicate — simple as that. It might not take a day, a week or even a year, but it would eventually happen, and then it would be too late to fix it.

So don't blame the grammar Nazis (I prefer calling them "SNOOTS" — Google it!) They're just caring so that you descriptivists don't have to.

KALI BRASSEUR
Science IV

A day in the life of the well-stressed man

Sure Tim, I'll get right on that. (*Do you hear the people sing?*)

Singing the song of well-groomed men, October 6) I'm gonna run on down to my favorite elitist menswear store (forget Harry Rosen, that's too low-brow) and drop my tuition on two suits instead of well ... tuition. After that, I know I'm going to need some clothes to go slumming in; maybe I'll drop by Underground. I don't really need to eat so I think I'll go buy some "collared shirts, sweater vests, blazers, cotton twill pants, and designer denim." Hell, while I'm at it, I think I'm going to go stop by the BMW dealer over on Roper Rd. They've got another 750i in the showroom that would look great next to my M5.

You know, you've really opened my eyes. I'm not sure why I've been wearing my three-year-old jeans with a hole in them, and a hoodie that keeps me warm. Instead of buying books, I'm going to go out to replace my wardrobe. When I'm finished with that I'll head back to my estate, sit in my leather great-chair, fire up a cigar, sip on some scotch, and bask in the smell of my leather-bound books and rich mahogany.

Honestly, get your head out of your ass and crawl back down to the yacht-club where you came from. I'm so happy for you that you can afford to look sparkling and distinguished while you bury

your life in books. I think I'll act like a man and be responsible with my limited cash-flow instead of pretending to be one by living on daddy's credit. This way, when I see that damsel in distress my first thought will be "goddamn I should go help her" not "oh pooh, these Prada shoes just really aren't meant to get wet."

But hell, if you really want me to look all dolled up I would more than gladly throw down your credit card at (gasp) Mr. Rosen's fine store. Oh wait, I've an even better idea. Everyone's into charity right? Start one up. I'll be the focus. You can use a sad photo of me in jeans and a t-shirt, poring over my books as the hook. Here's the line — "For only a dollar a day you can make this poor student look like a man."

Bitch, please.

PERRY HOFBAUER
Electrical Engineering IV

Decidedly uncivil twilight

ETS needs *more* of my money to break even? Great. I'd be okay with that if their service didn't completely suck. Express buses are few and far between, and don't run frequently enough. There are a limited amount of buses I can take to/from university campus, and they're packed.

PLEASE SEE LETTERS ♦ PAGE 7

A little advice on cracking the cold



DUSTIN BANKS

“Legally, I’m now required to state that Health Canada believes the opposite of everything I’m about to tell you. But here’s the theory: each medicine has a different way of killing whatever is making you sick, so if you don’t know if it’s helping or not, then mixing them should provide the best possible defense, right?”

Well, it’s that special time of year again — the seasons always change and Mother Nature releases her designer fall line of infection and misery. Soon enough, you and all your friends will be joining the runny-nosed masses yearning to breathe free. You may have noticed it already, with friends dropping one after the other, and now you come running to me, head hanging, seeking advice.

If you aren’t already sick, I suggest the immediate addition of a surgical mask and rubber gloves to your daily accessories. This is, of course a bare minimum — you should look into a full hazmat suit with functional respirator. Now, you may be concerned about how this will appear to others, but let me remind you that your safety should always come before your pride. Remember friends, in these trying times, one of the most dangerous things you can do is go to class.

Many people are concerned that what they eat might have some effect on their health, and this concern has created a new scientific niche.

As any Ecology 101 class will tell you, a niche exists to be filled, and in this case, it’s sadly by nutritionists. They’re doctors the same way I am — I swear I’ve taken some of the necessary prerequisites — and like so many fine actors, a nutritionist is dependent on your praise for his own sense of self worth. Seriously, if you want diet advice to remedy what ails you, then it’s best to go straight to the source: you’re going to have to phone your mother on this one. It’s not just an urban legend that she always knows what to say in situations like this.

I can hear the nay-sayers now. “But Dustin, what if my diet isn’t the problem?” they cry in their oh-so-shrill little voices, while working through their third metric ton of ramen this semester. Never fear, my little carriers of disease and pestilence — I’ve got you covered.

I can hardly claim to have tried all of the cold medicine in the world. Certainly, I’ve poured many varieties down my gullet in the pursuit of good health and a permanent high. Indeed each cold medicine seems to

operate in the same way: they taste so amazingly foul that your body is forced to get better immediately or risk the need to take it again.

“Wow, Dustin, you’re absolutely right! But what if there’s no medicine to kill what I’ve got?” you ask. In that case, my friend, it may be time to mix your own. Legally, I’m now required to state that Health Canada believes the opposite of everything I’m about to tell you. But here’s the theory: each medicine has a different way of killing whatever is making you sick, so if you don’t know if it’s helping or not, then mixing them should provide the best possible defense, right? Or in the words of an actual doctor, “Oh, sweet mercy! That’s absolutely insane! Never do that, ever!” He’s just jealous he didn’t come up with it first.

If for whatever reason you’ve tried all of these helpful tips and been unsuccessful in shaking the bug, I have only one other piece of advice: suck it up, you sissy. We’re *all* sick, and you don’t see us whining about it. Oh, and call your mother — she misses you.

At this point, does his Johnston really matter?

For pete’s sake, just let the attention-seeking D-list celebrity pose nude already



SARAH STEAD

Wahoo has run out of the only fodder that ever made him remotely interesting. Presumably, now that he’s no longer an inside ear in the house of the world’s most famous hockey mom, the easy paycheques are gone. So the decision to go the direction of failed cinema starlets and broke college students doesn’t seem that outlandish. After all, he’s most well-known for an activity that requires no real talent to complete; it’s not hard to see him reclined on a bearskin rug for his next career move.

Despite the amount of mockery that Johnston’s announcement has elicited, his decision to pose nude for *Playgirl* is probably the best one he’s made in a long time. Sure, taking your clothes off for money may look like a desperate move for more attention on his part, but at least he’s breaking new ground. After all, it’s the first time that his fame-seeking ways haven’t involved exploiting his son, his former relationship with Bristol Palin, or any of the Palins. People may only be interested in Johnston because of his past connections with the family, but so

long as he does the photo shoot for *Playgirl* without further blabbing about them, baring his naughty bits really isn’t a big deal.

Though it seems a bit bizarre that the 19-year-old father will have pro-created and been seen nude by a large chunk of North America before he can even legally have a beer, truthfully he’s not much younger than many of the girls between *Playboy*’s pages. Put simply: it’s his stuff, and if he wants to strut it, who’s to stop him? Anyone who thinks it’s disgusting doesn’t have to look at the photos, and the only person he’ll likely embarrass in this situation is himself. And if Levi Johnston hasn’t become accustomed to embarrassment at this point in his life, there’s clearly something wrong with him, or else he legally has no shame.

It may not be the classiest way to make a buck, but by the time Tripp Easton Mitchell Johnston is old enough to look up his parents’ complicated past, he’ll probably be more embarrassed by the trashy tell-all interviews that his father gave than the modest side-ass that he’ll be showing off in *Playgirl*.

LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Three or four full buses may leave me waiting behind because they’re entirely too full. Evening service is poor as well.

So ETS: before you ask for more money from students, why don’t you try and improve the service for students? I hate that you are expecting me to pay more for a service that is actually doing a shitty job.

NICOLE ANDERSON
Arts IV

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca or delivered via paper aeroplane to SUB 3-04. Occasionally, website comments may be published if not enough actual letters are submitted. Not this week, though, as we occasionally get so many letters that we need to spill over to the following page in a glorious fountain of verbose student opinions. In the grand scheme of things, that doesn’t happen very often, though, so keep those letters coming, as I’m not gonna write you to stay focused on current events — it’s all up to you, students.

The Gateway reserves the right to

edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author’s name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication.

Furthermore, emails featuring excessive amounts of exclamation marks, all-caps, large font sizes, colourful fonts, chatspeak, and/or emoticons are liable to be ridiculed mercilessly by the editorial staff.

Video CONTEST

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What is the appropriate role of government in the economy?

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VIDEO GAME ANTIQUITIES:
THE RUSH JET

Man’s best friend is his dog. Mega Man’s best friend, on the other hand, is a robot dog who can transform into (among others) a submarine, a submachine gun, a trampoline, a metal detector and our personal favorite, a mini-jet. Kinda puts Lassie to shame, to say the least.

Gateway Opinion writers will unfortunately not be paired with adorable robotic shapeshifter. But if you jet up to our weekly meetings on Tuesdays at 5 p.m., then we can teach you how to transform yourself into a multi-faceted, multi-disciplinary journalism machine. You still won’t be able to fly, but the submarine bit is something we can work on.

GATEWAY Opinion

SITTING ON CLOUD CANINE SINCE 1910

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TIGHT JAMS
WITH BRAND-DEE AND MIKE B

Setting the line of personhood between man and toaster

We need to establish a stronger distinction between things and people — otherwise, it's a slippery slope to marrying your blender



LANCE
MUDRYK

point

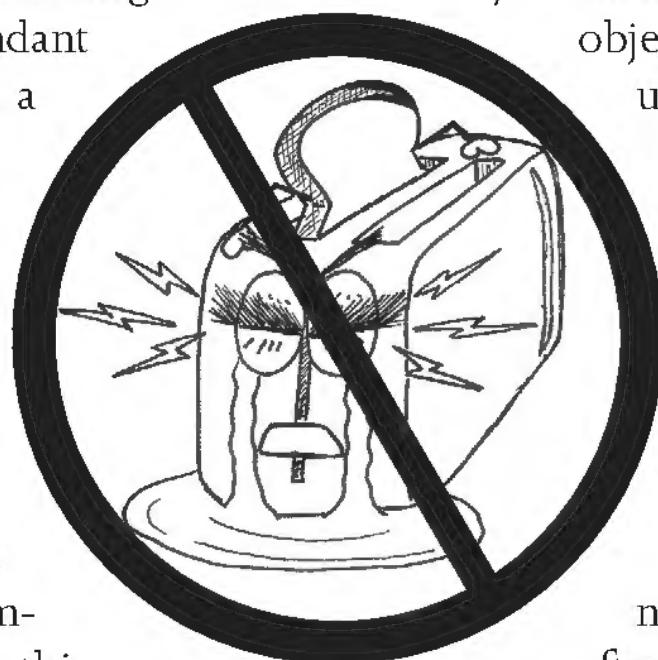
Inanimate objects don't have feelings. This sounds like a redundant comment, but I've noticed a large percentage of our population has forgotten this fact and has begun to empathize with random items such as plastic forks or old footballs that no one throws around anymore. I'm uncertain how we've reached this point, but I fear that our own humanity will be compromised if we continue down this path for too long.

Everyday, I'm surrounded by inanimate objects. I sleep in one. I eat them constantly. Hell, I've peed into one more times than I can remember. I've spent enough time around them that I feel I can speak on their behalf: objects are indifferent to the world around them. Diamond rings don't appreciate the attention people lavish upon them, nor does toilet paper regret its dark purpose. So we should not attempt to share empathy or feelings with them. They're not complex or complicated; they're just things made from other, smaller things. At least when I apply an electric shock to an amoeba, it puts in the effort to react at some point. When I run electricity through a table, it just sits there like nothing even happened.

So why care for objects that give you nothing in return? You or someone else paid good

money for the right to use those objects in whatever way you desired. They can't feel, taste, or smell, let alone care about your problems. Go ahead, bend that book's spine and scratch up that CD. Unless you intend on reselling it, there's no reason to keep it in mint condition.

Think about what how you define your humanity. Do inanimate objects have hands? A brain? An amygdala? When was last time you shared a tender moment with an object without it feeling horribly unnatural?



Now don't get me wrong — I'm not encouraging you to break things on purpose. Before you go and start kicking down doors because it makes for a more badass entrance, realize that it's someone's property. That door might not feel like it's been assaulted; after all, its life ended many years

ago, when, as a glorious spruce, it was clear-cut from an untamed mountain forest in beautiful British Columbia. This isn't a tragedy for the door, but rather for the fictional owner of the door. What's she to do now? She's down one door. Winter is just around the corner and she's missing the door to her goddamn house. What is wrong with you, kicking down that poor girl's door? Shame on you.

Life gives us enough to feel bad about — let's not make up imaginary feelings for things that may not have even been alive at any point. We buy and use these objects to make our lives more tolerable. If we start to show empathy to our inanimate brothers, then we've lost our place of dominance as sentient beings. Next thing you know, couches will be given the right to vote, and in a few years we'll see who's sitting on whom.

Objects in emotion tend to stay in emotion, and we need to start accepting the mental prowess of our appliances, or we will fail



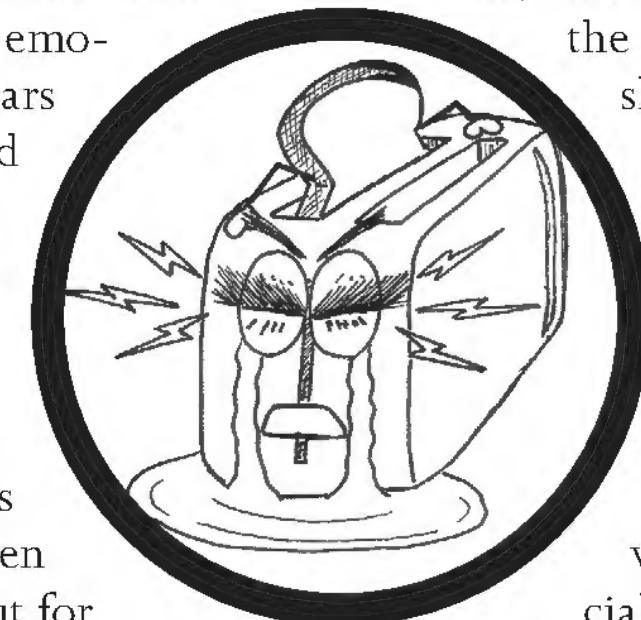
IAN
PHILLIPCHUK

counterpoint

Can anyone honestly claim that inanimate objects are emotionless? Clearly, your years of wild hedonism have dulled your emotional senses. How else can you ignore the simple suffering of the robotic auto worker, for instance — clearly this blue-collar bucket of bolts is suffering at the hands of his cruel Fordian overlords. Driven to desperation, the only way out for this everyday American at the end of his robo-rope is suicide. Thankfully for his little kids, barely out of circuit boards, it's all just a dream. The Robot Teamsters will remember this the next time you're weeping when forced to work 24 hours a day, welding rivets onto an Explorer. And you want to claim he have no feelings? Please.

I want everyone here to think long and hard about the people who raised you. That's right, I'm talking about Ms. TV and Mr. Couch. I'm sure you didn't think I'd have the gumption to bring out your family's indentured servants, but you're dead wrong. Don't forget that TV and Couch raised your ass, from youth to university student. And all any of you ever did to repay them was shatter their feelings. Don't you think your couch worries about you?

For that matter, my debate partner clearly has no idea how the film industry works. Of



course I wouldn't care about the feelings of that door, because getting kicked down is its job. That beautiful Barrington Special is the Cadillac of doors. It will get kicked down two, sometimes three times a day. Its soft pearly white surface has been honoured to kiss the boots of titans of the film industry. It would be an honour to work with that door, and if that fictional lady didn't want her door kicked in, she shouldn't have mounted it in the first place, and she definitely shouldn't have been living on a film set, because bad things tend to happen there.

Just because you've never bothered to ask your sofa what it's feeling doesn't mean it doesn't have those emotions. Well, that's because we don't realize the most crucial fact about furniture: it's clearly more polite than us. Your CDs don't care the way you pitch them around your room, or rest drinks on them, they'll keep on spinning round for you as many times as you wish. I personally think this is an indication of deep emotional solidarity. A thousand little soldiers, your possessions will continue to suffer for you; the least you could do is have a chat with your chair every once in a while.

I think I've clearly established that furniture has feelings. Bleating to the contrary, no one can deny the emotional cries of a creaking Lazyboy, or the gentle skin-on-leather tearing of a couch on a hot sweaty day, steadfastly refusing to relinquish even a moment of contact. And Lance, you're not seriously worried about getting passed by in the evolutionary ladder by your couch, are you? I know you're smarter than that. It's that lounge chair you have to worry about.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ROSS VINCENT

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For further information about the D.I.E. Board, go to www.su.ualberta.ca or ea@su.ualberta.ca

Only short listed applicants will be contacted. Positions subject to Students' Council ratification



Roman mis-handled



MIKE KENDRICK

Murder is a crime. So is robbery. Possession, trafficking, and concealment of weapons and controlled substances? Yep. But rape? These days, a lot of people don't seem to think so. At least, that appears to be the case in the recent arrest of filmmaker Roman Polanski for "engaging in unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor" — but a rape by any other name still smells as foul.

Polanski's headline-grabbing apprehension stems from the 1977 incident between him and 13-year-old Samantha Gailey. After photographing the girl for the French edition of *Vogue* magazine, Polanski is alleged to have given the girl champagne and sedatives, and coerced her into various sexual acts. In the ensuing scandal, Polanski fled to France, where he held citizenship, and has been cowardly avoiding extradition to this day. Before hopping the pond, he did serve 42 days in a state penitentiary, but has since been imprisoned within the confines of the European countryside, tragically being forced to restrict his travels to countries that won't lock him up and ship him back stateside. What suffering!

When Polanski was finally arrested two weeks ago in Switzerland, it seemed like it would be a fairly cut-and-dry prosecution. After all, if any other Joe Rapist had been squirreling away on the other side of the planet for 30 years, only to be finally caught, wouldn't the world be exhaling with relief that sweet justice could finally be served? So why, then, are the waves of Polanski apologists appearing from their burrows *en masse* to decry the poor man's plight and defend his integrity?

There's a major fallacy in the disconnect between Roman Polanski as an acclaimed artist and Roman Polanski as a child rapist. Many of his supporters point to the film buff's illustrious career in producing, directing, writing, and acting. The man is a visionary filmmaker, and some of his works rank among the most significant films of all time. For what it's worth, *Chinatown* was great, and though I've never seen *The Pianist*, I'm sure it's

heart-warming. Like many, I continue to appreciate the contributions that Polanski has made to cinema, and his personal life shouldn't affect his reputation as a professional.

But what so few Polanski apologists fail to accept is that he hasn't been arrested for what I'm sure was a stellar performance in *Rush Hour 3*; he's been arrested for over three decades of living happily as a consequence-free criminal. Justice isn't always fair, but this is a case where it hasn't forgotten the sins of the past, and intends to make the culprit pay for them.

Strip away any of the celebrity trappings — Roman Polanski is a sex offender who's yet to be punished for his crime.

What truly bothers me in this case, though, is not Polanski's actions, so much as how utterly dismissive his fans have been. Western culture seems to be so afraid of the concept of rape that it's essentially criminalized the victims, and constantly makes excuses for the criminals who commit the act. Even Gailey (who's since become Samantha Geimer,) has publicly forgiven Polanski and insisted that he likely would have acted differently if given a second chance. I can't speak personally for Geimer, or for any rape victim for that matter, but so often, it seems the victims are so villified by society, that even they're willing to downplay the long-lasting and traumatizing effects of rape.

It's bad enough when a rapist is pardoned or given a lighter sentence in any regular case; even worse when the victim is seemingly punished for "dressing improperly" or "being in the wrong place at the wrong time." But the even more exceptional standards given to celebrity cases like this truly take the cake.

Strip away any of the celebrity trappings — Roman Polanski is a sex offender who's yet to be punished for his crime. 30 years of pretending to be sorry isn't enough to wipe out the damage the deed has done, and by forgiving or dismissing a deliberate act that happened decades years ago, his supporters might as well be giving permission for it to happen again.

THE BURLAP SACK

Last spring, when I assembled my timetable on Bear Tracks, I thought it would be a good idea to throw a first-year course into the mix. I figured I could broaden my horizons by learning a new discipline, and my good study habits would make the course a breeze. And somehow, I forgot how irritating a group of first-year classmates could be. (Which is odd, because only three years ago, I was one of these schmucks myself. Ah, the naivety of youth — how quickly it passes us by.)

Usually, I'm patient with new classmates. I understand it takes a while to adjust to university life, and we all eventually clue in, given enough time. There is something, however, that I cannot stand for. This is when the majority of the class starts packing up their books and getting ready to leave three or four minutes before the lecture is over.

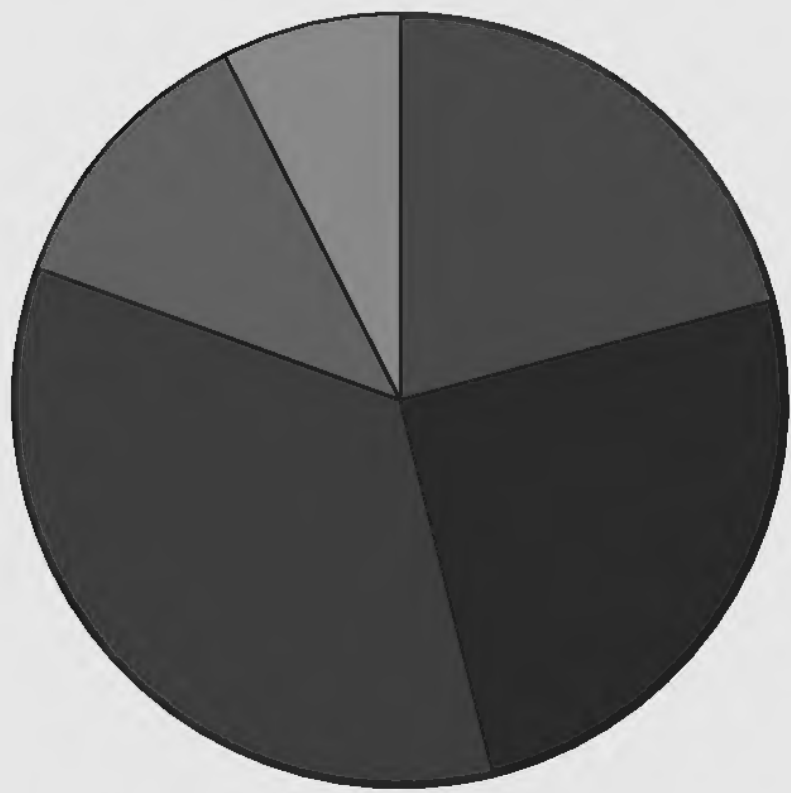
We've all seen this happen, because we all started there. Just as the lecture hits its 46th minute, right when we're about to get to the ultimate point of what we've heard — we hear a zipper. This sets off a chain reaction of rapid packing, culminating in umpteen other people getting ready to leave. I can always see the instructors die inside a little bit when this happens — they sigh, and send us off with two minutes left on the clock. These minutes add up; by semester's end, we'll have lost an entire lecture's worth of time, wasted away just packing up books.

Listen up, newbies: I understand that not every lecture is endlessly captivating, but when you act like lectures need to be *escaped*, it shows disrespect for everyone else in the room. Shape up and get started at keeping your part of the bargain you agreed to when you signed up for the class — if you can't sit down for a full 50-minute lecture, you may as well never come at all. Your impatience has earned you a position in the Burlap Sack. Beatings will continue until attentiveness improves.

ELLIOT GOODINE

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

readerpoll "What do you regret most about the first month of the new semester?"



- Didn't get the classes I wanted (8%)
- Too much time spent partying (12%)
- Not enough time spent partying (34%)
- Nothing. My life is perfect (25%)
- I didn't go into the trades (21%)

TOTAL RESPONSES: 67

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

"Have you filed a claim for the SU's Health Plan yet?"

vote online at thegatewayonline.ca

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KINGDOM OF METAL

WORDS AND PHOTOS
BY GABBY RICHES

LATE IN THE SUMMER, I had the opportunity to travel to Europe for three weeks, exploring Switzerland, Austria, and Germany, and metal music scenes in each region. My aim for the trip was simple: documenting the differences and similarities between Europe's various scenes, contrasted with my own experiences with the genre in Edmonton, in terms of its variety of metal venues, the vibrancy of each scene, and where heavy metal venues are located.

While my wallet is hurting from all those CD purchases, my neck is still sore from all that headbanging, and some of those nights out at metal venues are still a little blurry (damn that wonderful German beer!), as someone who's passionate about international metal scenes and the cultural backgrounds that have helped shape

each of them, I made a point to attend as many metal venues and record shops as humanly possible.

For all of you metalheads out there planning a trip across the pond in the near future, let this be your unofficial metal travel guide. Strap on your bullet belts and take some notes — we're going travelling heavy-metal-style.



SWITZERLAND

Switzerland is known for its luscious green meadows, the astonishing views of the towering Alps, mouth-watering chocolate, and carefully crafted timepieces. To metal fans, however, Switzerland embodies much more than just mountain ranges and yodellers.

The small central-European nation put itself on the metal map in the early 1980s with bands such as Hell Hammer, Celtic Frost, and Coroner. From around the late '90s until now, there have been a range of underground metal bands such as Mumakil, Carnal Decay, Mirrorthrone, and Exhortation that, unfortunately, have gone unnoticed.

Many of these bands were formed in Zurich, a city with a vibrant metal

scene and tons of foreign money. However, Lucerne offers a different perspective on heavy metal music. Its scene is rather small, and the city itself only has two metal venues — though neither will leave metal fans disappointed. Even legendary composer Richard Wagner, who is considered by some the "grandfather of heavy metal," had a house here!

DOWNTOWN (LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND)

Welcome back to the '90s of rock-and-roll and heavy metal music, where Downtown is considered the heavy metal bar in Lucerne. This establishment features metal music on Friday and Saturday nights, and sometimes it gets so busy on the weekend that

you're bound to rub shoulders with like-minded metalheads who just want to party Swiss style. But don't expect to hear any homegrown talent like Celtic Frost or Coroner — instead, you'll be forced to endure mainstream tunes from Disturbed, Fear Factory, and Rammstein. I guess nobody has informed the Downtown pub that nu-metal isn't so new (or metal) anymore.

However, the people who visit the bar are very friendly and entertaining. While I was there having a beer, one man decided to demonstrate his air guitar skills with a broom while obnoxiously yelling Metallica lyrics. The staff are more than happy to make you feel like one of the gang when taking your requests.



AUSTRIA

Austria is home to an interesting spectrum of musical prowess.

The country is the birthplace to famed composer Amadeus Mozart, and served as the beautiful backdrop to *The Sound of Music*. That said, Austria is also known for its awesome death- and black-metal bands.

The capital city of Vienna has been a metal dwelling for bands such as Summoning, Belphegor, Miasma, Parental Advisory, Pazuzu, and Pungent Stench. But Salzburg should not be overlooked as just a city full of beauty and castles, having spawned some wicked domestic talent such as Low Chir, Godforsaken, Zwartketterij, and Discipline-M that is contributing substantially to the sustainability of Salzburg's metal scene — one that's been vivacious for over 20 years. If you can drown out all the *Sound of Music* tour buses whizzing by, you can almost hear the blast

bears coming from Heavy Rotation record shop.

HEAVY ROTATION MUSIC STORE (SALZBURG, AUSTRIA)

After finding out that Rockhouse Salzburg (the town's biggest metal venue) was closed down for renovations, I was pretty disappointed. Thankfully, when I came across Heavy Rotation, my spirits were lifted and my horns were raised. Heavy Rotation is a splendid heavy metal record store where one can easily spend the entire afternoon listening to rare local and international finds. The record shop features a wide selection of black metal, hardcore, grind, death metal, thrash metal, and speed/power metal, and also has tons of posters, flags, brochures, magazines, shirts (only in large sizes unfortunately), and vinyl.

The guy who was working at the store is also, as I found out, the owner of Rockhouse Salzburg. He was very helpful and made a point of introducing me to a large portion of the local metal talent, which was much appreciated — in fact, I purchased pretty much everything he showed me. Interestingly, the CDs were arranged by sub-genre instead of alphabetically. This made me explore the store more thoroughly, as it forced me to venture down different avenues, rather than just sitting through to find specific bands. I spent most of my time at the CD player and going through the bargain bins for albums that were only seven Euros.

SCHNAITL MUSIC PUB (SALZBURG, AUSTRIA)

For over 15 years, this long-established Austrian metal pub has had its fair share of metal visitors, as this

seems to be the place where local metal folks and international metal festival travellers unite. I met two men from Israel who were on their way to Summer Breeze Open Air Festival in Dunkelshühli, Germany, but made a pit stop in Salzburg.

The music is not what a typical metalhead would consider "extreme" — melodic death metal and gothic metal seem to be the most commonly played sub-genres. The atmosphere is friendly, at times too friendly, depending on the amount of alcohol being consumed. The owners of Schnaitl wanted to turn the metal pub into a live music venue, but have been unable to because of the student housing that sits above. Schnaitl usually features after-parties and themed nights. And before you leave the venue, check out the horse trough, just don't piss in it, even if it seems tempting.

GERMANY

If you ask any metalhead to close their eyes and picture their ideal metal paradise, the first thing that usually comes to mind is Germany. Known as the European centre of heavy metal, it's a country that has thrived on the success and prevalence of heavy metal music. Germany hosts over 20 festivals during the summer months, all catering to particular metal sub-genres. Most importantly, Germany is the home of the largest heavy metal festival in the world, the Wacken Open Air Festival.

There are various areas of Germany that are renowned for specific sub-genres of metal. For example, the Rhein-Ruhr area is the birthplace of internationally famous thrash-metal bands like Kreator and Sodom, while the southern and eastern regions of Germany are recognized as the centres of black metal, death metal, and power metal. Metal scenes within Germany are very diverse depending on the city. Berlin, for example, is a

thriving heavy-metal metropolis containing more than 17 heavy-metal venues. One would definitely need to have the stamina to keep up with all those wild German metalheads and the endless metal venues that define this amazing country.

Flex (Munich, Germany)

A long-established independent, underground metal pub in Munich, Flex is filled with jaw-dropping artwork, pinball machines, and an interesting mix of metal and punk fans. Flex has been cranking out the metal tunes for over 16 years and they're still not able to install street lamps outside the venue. Just follow your ears!

Every night consists of a theme such as "Hey Ho! Let's Go," "Flex, Drugs, and Rock'n'Roll," and "Cigarettes

and Alcohol." Don't be put off by the not-so-metal music, because the real attraction is the wall-to-wall artwork that will force you to wander around the bar for hours. It's rumoured that if you come on a Monday night, you'll more than likely meet local folks from the Munich metal scene. If you don't feel like socializing, there are plenty of pinball machines to choose from and an extensive drinks menu.

Access (Berlin, Germany)

Located in the heart of East Berlin, Access is known for being the number-one metal pub in the city. It's a requirement for any metalhead who's passing through Berlin to drop by for cheap beer, a game of foosball, and a chance to challenge local metal folks about their black-metal knowledge. Access features some of

the best extreme metal in the city ranging from old-school death metal to extreme black metal. Bands such as Burzum, Morbid Angel, Bathory, Slayer, Decide, and Immortal are commonly heard, no matter what day of the week.

The atmosphere at Access is dark and ominous, thanks to the array of medieval, biker, and military paraphernalia. Conversely, the staff are very friendly if you know German. Make sure you know how to order a beer in the native tongue or else you might be left high and dry. However, if you can fake a German accent (or guttural growl) then I highly recommend buying some of their home-grown merchandise. If there are any touring metal acts throughout Berlin, Access is the best place to catch the after-party and meet the band members. This extreme metal pub also supports its local Hell's Angels gang — hey, at least they're giving back to the community.



GERMANY CONTINUED

BRETTEBÜDE (BERLIN)

Brettebude is a small and friendly metal venue located in the Freidrichshain borough of Berlin, an area considered a haven for any international metal fan. The area contains several metal venues, graffiti-covered walls (be sure to take some time to take note of the street art as many of them contain explicit political narratives), and alternative shops. One will find a great mix of people at Brettebude — looking around the bar, there's a wide variety ranging from youthful metal fans to aging hippies sporting receding hairlines and experiencing substantial hearing loss from a long history of attending metal concerts. There are several skulls displayed all around the pub, complemented by the array of heavy metal flags and posters. Brettebude is very accommodating to its customers, placing speakers outside in the beer garden so you can rock out in public, and is also a great place to pre-headbang before heading off to the Halford Café.

HALFORD CAFÉ (BERLIN)

Just around the corner from Brettebude, the Halford Café is hell-bent for leather, delivering the goods, and screaming for vengeance! Come and pay your respects to the all-time metal god by standing beside the larger-than-life statue of Judas Priest frontman Rob Halford. Even the bartender looks like Halford!

Make sure you set aside some time to wander around the pub and take note of how many Judas Priest murals are displayed on the walls — even the number of Iron Maiden flags might surprise you. But one must always be prepared, so you might need some liquid confidence before embarking on any type of heavy metal quest.

The drink specials at the Halford Café cater to any heavy metal need. Hell awaits if you order the Slayer drink; if you're really feeling valiant, try the Lemmy experiment, named after the famed Mötörhead frontman. (Beware: this drink could potentially create boil-like growths on your face and turn your lovely Canadian speech into an inaudible, hoarse English accent.) If you're craving something more exotic, order a Sepultura drink mix made up of 100 per cent old-school Brazilian Thrash.

ROCK-UND-WIKINGERBAR (BERLIN)

I'm fairly certain that viking-metal group Amon Amarth was referring to the Rock-und-Wikingerbar in their song "The Pursuit of Vikings." This east-side metal pub is full of debauchery and great metal music. Your liver should be in good condition when you visit the Rock-und-Wikingerbar because there are over ten flavours of Mead to sample.

The Rock-und-Wikingerbar is a

very small pub, but after metal concerts they can cram more than 50 metal fans in that place — still not a lot of headbanging room. The guy that runs the pub is very friendly and is usually found interacting with the locals, and the staff members even provide viking helmets for drunken photograph opportunities. The walls of the pub are also alive with animal skins, musical equipment, and heavy metal posters.

Be prepared to drink a "special" concocted cocktail if you get too friendly with the owner; he's known for passing out, or finding people passed out from his shots made of tequila, tomato juice, Tabasco, black pepper, and Worcestershire sauce. Now that's partying viking-style!

DER CLOCHARD (HAMBURG)

As you're wandering the streets of Hamburg's Red Light District in the St. Pauli area, be sure to stumble by Der Clochard for a beer and a song. The Reeperbahn in St. Pauli's has a long history of pirates, brothels, and heavy metal music, which is why so many metalheads consider Hamburg to be the heavy metal haven. Der Clochard is a rather run-down pub, but its best feature is the jukebox full of metal CDs. You can pick and choose from various sub-genres such as death metal, black metal, power metal, and thrash metal, but there are also other picks in the collection that were probably created by drunken attendees, so proceed with caution. The atmosphere is very laid back and there tends to be a regular occurrence of encountering travelling metalheads who are on their way to other metal festivals, especially during the summer. If you want to observe tourists and prostitutes in their natural habitat, feel free to sit outside at the cage-like balcony and see what's going on in the street.

NIGHTLIGHT (HAMBURG)

One of the best metal venues I've ever been to, this tiny pub is typically jam-packed with local metalheads on weekends who come down to St. Pauli's to party. Nightlight is a place where you can find the most important things in life, mainly alcohol, metalheads, and awesome metal music.

On Fridays, they feature thrash-and-death-metal, while Saturdays are a return to the classics. Manowar, Tankard, Death, and Metallica were the bands that were featured the night I was there. The bar staff are very friendly, the service is excellent, the atmosphere is friendly and welcoming, and the people are willing to assist you in perfecting your German vocabulary. It's very common to see people break out into mosh pits and headbang while others sit at the bar and enjoy the cheap Astra (local Hamburg beer). This is truly one of the best metal venues I have ever been to.

FISCHKOPP-PLATTENSHOP/

COLTURESCHOCK (HAMBURG)

It's rare, especially in Canada, to wander around a Farmers' Market and stumble upon a grind/punk record shop — that's what makes Fischkopp-Plattenshop such a true gem. With shelves of 7" and 12" vinyls, CDs, and wicked band shirts, this place is a must-see for all those who go giddy for grind and perky for punk. Many of the albums that you'll pick up have incomprehensible logos and really grotesque artwork. In fact, the guy who was working there had a hell of a time trying to read the vinyls that I purchased. This grind/punk shop is located in the Marktstraße, where any metalhead can find metal-related clothing, accessories, jewelry, and of course, music. Who knew that metalheads loved to shop!

REMEDY RECORDS (HAMBURG)

Remedy Records is a long-established store and record label in Hamburg which features bands such as Paragon, Torment, and Dark Age, and also organizes a small metal festival called Metal Bash. No metalhead will be disappointed after spending all of their hard earned dollars here; anything and everything metal can be found such as vintage posters, patches, vinyls, CDs, tickets to concerts, collectors editions, box sets, shirts, and various band accessories. The woman who was helping me when I was there, who is actually married to the singer of Torment, was very knowledgeable and helpful when it came to recommending local bands, certain genres, and upcoming shows. She even allowed me to put CDs in the music player so I knew what all these local bands sounded like. In less than an hour I spent up to 200 Euros on hard-to-find CDs and patches. I even found the DVDs of the Party San and Wacken Open Air 2008 festivals, both of which I had attended.

THREE MONKEYS (HAMBURG)

Despite the peculiar name, the Three Monkeys is a cool metal venue that has excellent music, great staff, and a large space. Compared to the other metal venues in Hamburg, this one had couches, a large games room, a large bar at the front, and very clean bathrooms. Typically, people come here to have a few pre-show beers before heading off to the Reeperbahn or another area of St. Pauli's. Interestingly enough, this metal venue is located in an area that is filled with hotels, high-end shops, and other alternative venues. The cheap beer flows freely here at the Three Monkeys and the DJs were very receptive to requests and made a point of playing German metal like Sodom and Kreator. The bar even has a small dance floor for headbanging and starting a mosh pit.



Planning a heavy metal trip? Go to www.metaltravelguide.com for more information about anything metal.

social
intercourse**Paranormal State**

Featuring Ryan Buell and Chip Coffey
Thursday, October 8 at 7 p.m.
Myer Horowitz Theatre (SUB)
\$39.50–\$99.50 at ticketmaster.ca



As their slogan states, it isn't your imagination. Ghosts exist and Ryan Buell, host of the A&E show *Paranormal State*, has plenty of reasons to believe in them. Buell and clairvoyant Chip Coffey will educate the audience at Horowitz on the preternatural experiences they've had both on *Paranormal State* and in their own lives, which will be followed by a question period where people can ask them burning inquiries regarding supernatural phenomena. Have they been fondled by Patrick Swayze while making clay pottery yet? Do phantoms only whisper to Jennifer Love Hewitt because she's attractive and they're bashful? Have they ever seen dead people, particularly the ghost of Haley Joel Osment's career? These questions and more demand to be answered.

Lorna's Silence

Directed by Jean-Pierre Dardenne and Luc Dardenne
Starring Arta Dobroshi, Jérémie Renier, and Fabrizio Rongione
Opens Friday, October 9
Princess Theatre (1033/–82 Ave.)

A dark existentialist look at the trials and tribulations of two Albanian immigrants in Belgium trying to open up a snack bar (seriously), *Lorna's Silence* exposes the gritty European underworld of pork rind and milk dad merchantry. The immigrants, Sokol and Lorna, need both money and permanent residency to open their glorified cupcake stand, which necessitates an elaborate international citizenship scheme conjured up by an Italian gang boss named Fabio (seriously).

According to Fabio, Lorna will marry a Belgian drug addict to attain his nationality, then remarry an affluent cigarette smuggler who would then attain a desired European Union passport, paying off both the gang boss and Lorna for their services in the process. And scandalously, this incredibly convoluted plan goes off with several hitches along the way, all to accomplish the noble dream of one day selling cheese doodles legitimately, rather than out of the trunk of a black Bentley in a shady alleyway.

JOHN KMECH
Throws a mean CD

Deadmonton is just as horror-able as ever



festivalpreview

Dedfest Horror Festival

October 15–18
Metro Cinema (9828–101A Avenue)
\$70/weekend, \$20/per day
Tickets available at Mars and Venus and The Lobby
Full schedule at www.dedfest.com

GABBY RICHES
Arts & Entertainment Writer

What do lesbian vampire killers, zombie bites, and neighbours from hell all have in common? They're going to make every audience member tremble in pure horror at this year's Dedfest Horror Festival.

Kevin Martin and Derek Clayton, the gore-driven creators of this unique event, are thrilled about hosting yet another shocking carnival of severed limbs and disemboweled havoc at Edmonton's Metro Cinema. With only a week remaining until the horror movie festival, the level of anticipation and excitement is as potent as rotting flesh. With last year's festival completely selling out, Martin and Clayton are expecting the Metro to be packed with horror freaks of all kinds. Dedfest 2009 will ooze of punk rockers, metalheads, and horror movie hounds.

"Right after we announced we were putting on another Deadmonton Horror Festival, people were blindly buying tickets without knowing which movies were playing. It was a boost for us to know that people are attending no matter what movies are going to be featured," smiles Clayton.

New and underground movies such as *Neighbor*, *Rampage*, *Vampire Girl vs. Frankenstein Girl*, *Blood Shed*, and *Escape from Death Planet* are sure to quench any horror fan's thirst for the unimaginable at Dedfest. The major motion picture at this year's Dedfest

is the brain-munching masterpiece, *Return of the Living Dead*.

"This is a movie about punk rockers taking on zombies. This movie kicks ass on every level possible! I had my first crush on a woman because of this movie. When she performed the striptease in the graveyard, my eight-year-old mind was on fire," Martin exclaims as he reminisces about the innocence of graveyard romance.

"Right after we announced we were putting on another Deadmonton Horror Festival, people were blindly buying tickets without knowing which movies were playing."

DEREK CLAYTON
CO-CREATOR OF DEDFEST HORROR FESTIVAL

Even better, it's being presented in 35 mm.

"There's something about the sound of the pop and hiss of a 35 mm print, which is why when we get a retro horror movie, we want to showcase it on 35 mm because it makes it special," Clayton adds.

"There was something almost religious going on when we walked into the projection booth at the Metro and seeing these big cans of films. They were just there, sitting in dust. There was something magical about it," Clayton adds.

"What was even more magical was seeing the face of the old-school projectionist of the Metro and seeing how happy he was," Martin chimes in.

Despite the popularity of movie downloading and plain old movie apathy, the nostalgia of the communal movie theatre experience will never die, according to Martin and Clayton. The atmosphere at the Metro is another feature that attracts people. Not only does it serve beer (always a great complement to any horror

film), but it provides a very authentic movie experience.

"At Deadmonton Horror Movie Festival, people are more interactive and active in the movie theatres by yelling at the screen and cracking open beers," Clayton says.

"We want to maintain that mythological factor, similar to the famous Grindhouse Theatre in the 1970s — it's a pretty raucous affair," Martin adds.

Clayton and Martin are also planning to keep the adrenalin pumping for the rest of year by showcasing monthly screenings at the Metro.

"The Metro has put faith in us to give one Friday a month to screen new- and old-school flicks that you would never think of seeing on the big screen," Clayton says. "This will build a brand name for the city and keep the momentum going."

So what is it about Edmonton that makes it an ideal dwelling place for horror freaks and the living dead?

"I realized that there are a lot of people in Edmonton that are interested in this stuff. I'm not the only freak," Martin says.

"The reason why we enjoy putting Deadmonton Horror Film Fest on is because Edmonton has this crazy involvement in horror movies. Films such as one of David Cronenberg's early films *Fast Company*, the TV show *Fear Itself*, *Prom Night 2*, and the first two *Ginger Snaps* movies were all shot here," Clayton explains.

With the fifth-annual Deadmonton Film Festival fast approaching, Martin and Clayton aim at upholding Edmonton as a prominent name in horror movie circles.

"No matter how bad the economy is, no matter what kind of recession is going on, there will always be two things that people will be excited about: alcohol and movies. Hey, we got both to offer that weekend at Dedfest," reminds Martin.

The blood feast drenched in beer and zombie drool awaits.

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The tricks and treats of the Dedfest festival



filmreview

Vampire Girl vs. Frankenstein Girl

Showtimes at www.dedfest.com

JUSTIN DUMA
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The title of *Vampire Girl vs. Frankenstein Girl* would have most people thinking of a cheesy horror mash-up, but this masterpiece has everything a good piece of cinema needs: a tragic teenage love triangle, development of in-depth characters, elaborate flashbacks, and complex twists. It also has high-pressure blood spray lasting anywhere from 1–20 minutes, rendering of flesh, crushing of skulls, high-speed battles with dismembered limbs, sexual perversion, wrist-cutting competitions, and abominations of science.

The manic storyline is an exaggerated love triangle with useless insertions of Japanese sub-culture, whose only purpose seems to be comedic value. In an attempt to procure his heart for eternity, Monami (“Vampire Girl”) gives Valentine’s chocolates tainted with her blood to Mizushima, the heartthrob of her class. Mizushima’s controlling girlfriend Keiko starts to notice the growing relationship between the teen vampires and starts to question Monami’s motives.

Keiko foolishly confronts the vampire, leading to her overdramatized death. Conveniently, the father of the recently deceased has a fetish for dismembering corpses and, by combining the best parts scavenged from her classmates, creates “Frankenstein Girl.” Like the title suggests, the two teenage monsters duke it out for Mizushima’s love.

The production is poor, but the gore is grand and in high abundance. This movie is worth its weight in disembodied limbs.



filmreview

The Pick Up

Showtimes at www.dedfest.com

JOEL RACKEL
Arts & Entertainment Writer

“She was a little taste of heaven, and a one way ticket ... straight to hell!” reads the promotional poster for the *The Pick Up*, a prequel to a sequel, attempting to bridge the demonic *Flesh for the Beast* with its upcoming sequel. *Flesh for the Beast* was a straight-to-DVD gorey concerning six parapsychologists trying to escape a mansion filled with demons disguising themselves as beautiful women.

The Pick Up is scored with music straight from a cheesy porno flick (seriously, it’s from the *Pornosonic Unreleased Porno Music From the 70s* soundtrack, so you know it’s good) and begins with a shot of a lovely looking blonde walking out of the aforementioned mansion. She’s picked up by a well-off, straight-edge gentleman and through awkward dialogue, we confirm our suspicion that she is, indeed, a prostitute. They drive to the Starlite Motel and after a meeting with the overzealous and over-acted owner, they get a room.

But don’t let Pornosonic fool you — this shag is not what we expect. It’s a little messier than most and I just can’t see the classic “Was it good for you?” sufficing after the deed. It’s bizarre, it’s not funny, it’s not scary. It’s just awful.

The Pick Up is a pointless exercise continually hampered by poor dialogue, no motivation, and novice camerawork. The film waits for something to happen and when it does, we’re left confused, bewildered, and with lowered sex-drives. Consider a ticket to see *The Pick Up* a one-way ticket straight to hell.



filmreview

The Return of the Living Dead

Showtimes at www.dedfest.com

NAOMI WILLIAMS
Arts & Entertainment Writer

This movie is a calling on all dead-heads who like zombie movies with a live twist. Debuting in 1985, *RotLD* aces in the creep-tacular department of horror and hilarity.

The events in this film “are all true.” Hopefully, you were born in ’86.

It’s a Friday night, and youngster Freddy is job-training at the local Louisville medical supply warehouse. All his homefries are chillin’ next door at the graveyard having a party with a boombox. As a sexy red-head strips down on top of a coffin, Foreman Frank lets Freddy in on a little inside gossip.

The office’s basement has a perplexing possession: the Pittsburgh ’68 Trioxin-infected morgue victims enclosed in barrels.

“Leak? Hell no, these things were made by the U.S. Army,” Frank says as he shows them to Freddy and bangs his fist against a barrel.

Never trust the army wholeheartedly, as Frank’s punch immediately releases liquid dead into the basement.

This is no gun-shooting, leather-whipping, axe-killing zombie murder-fest. The living dead do not die. Well, what now?

They decide to burn the fugly zombies at the crematorium across the street — a fool-proof plan, until it rains, and the Trioxin-infected dust seeps into the graveyard ground.

Watch the movie, cross your fingers, and hope the army will save the day.

cultura obscura



Project Icarus

AARON YEO
Arts & Entertainment Staff

NASA spends approximately US \$500 million every time it launches a space shuttle, and what do they come back with? Computer logs of numbers, graphs, tables, and scientific mumbo jumbo that the average Joe can’t understand, let alone appreciate. But everyone can admire a photograph — especially one that’s taken from space. And that’s just what a bunch of guys from MIT thought earlier this September.

The goal of this particular space mission, named Project Icarus, was to send a camera up to the edges of the stratosphere with as little money as possible. They were able to get their Canon A4 / 0 digital camera up to a height of 93,000 feet (10.6 km) above sea level, at a cost of less than US \$150. The camera, set to automatically take a picture every five seconds, got high enough to capture the curvature of the Earth, and even the blackness of the final frontier.

Their main launcher of choice was not a rocket, or a firework, or a twin ion engine, but instead a massive weather balloon tied to a styrofoam beer cooler. The balloon spent about four hours going up, until the low pressure caused it to explode, sending a little white box plummeting to the ground. Thanks to its light weight, non-aerodynamic shape, and a small plastic parachute, it didn’t reach deadly fireball speeds as is common for things falling from space. The descent took over forty minutes, and luckily for the students, landed not too far away in an open construction field.

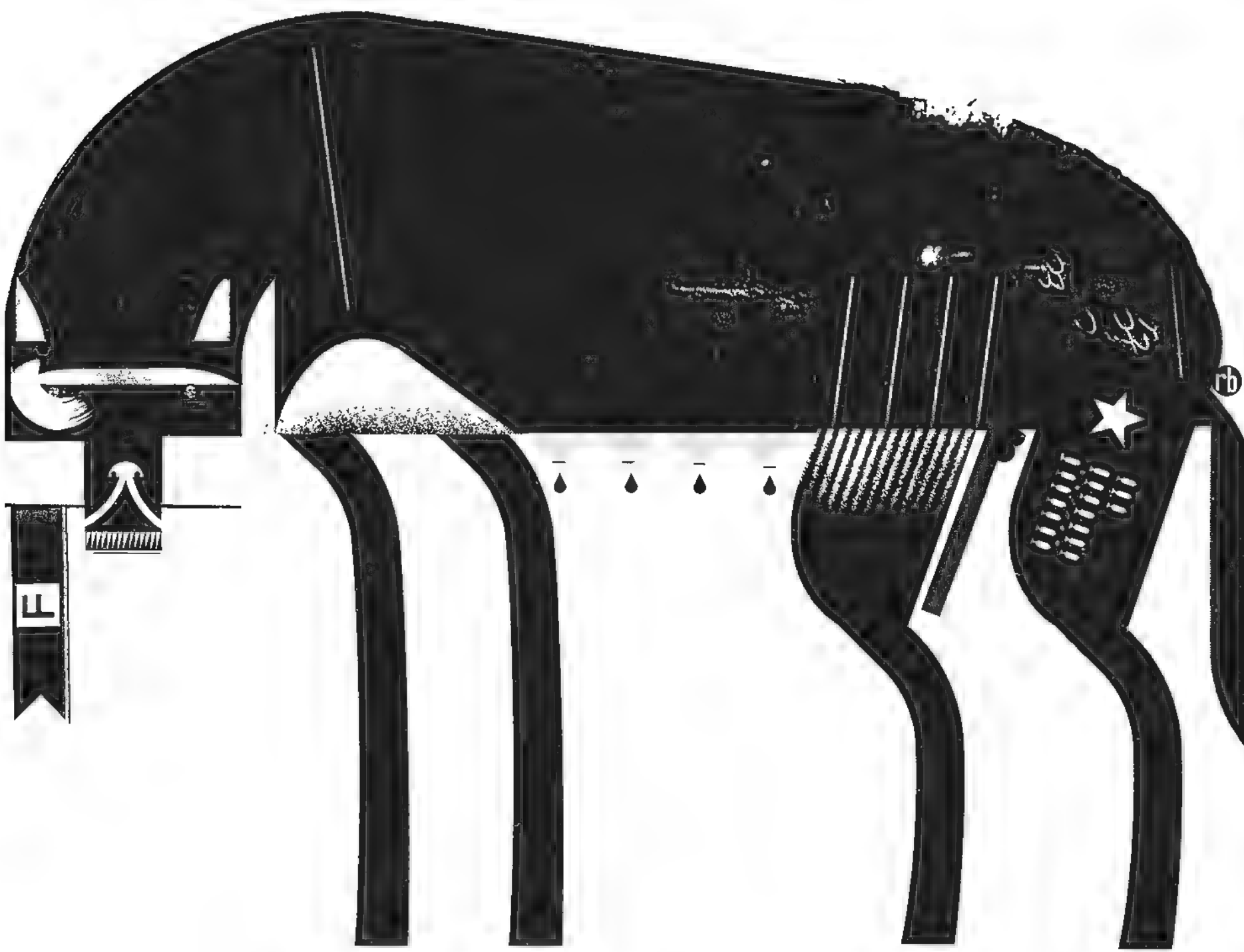
Instead of driving around the eastern seaboard and asking about beer coolers falling from the sky, the MIT students opted to throw a GPS-enabled cell phone into the box. Although the phone lost reception as it hit the 2,500-foot

mark, they were able to track its exact location when it landed back on Earth. Also in the magic vessel were crumpled up newspapers to act as insulation, an additional battery pack for the phone, and some instant hand warmers. Those magic packets served as an unorthodox method to keep the electronics warm and functioning, as it can get awfully cold up in the stratosphere. The whole box was slapped together with duct tape and zip ties — the two most important tools for an engineer.

Project Icarus initially was about getting some birds’-eye view photographs of Boston, but the limits were pushed and they soon figured they could go all the way. Second-hand, out-of-date electronics saved them a few dollars on production costs, and before long their space-bound rig was ready for takeoff.

This amazing feat of ambition and cheapness is sure to inspire, and since anyone can repeat it, it means it will probably lead to many copycat projects around the world. It’s another achievement that shows just how powerful man is, and how we reach out and push the boundaries. With just a lousy weather balloon, we can send whatever we want to amazing heights — and it’s probably a lot cheaper than renting a crane for the annual Pumpkin Drop.

Famines satiated with originality



musicpreview

The Famines
with the *Angry Dragons* and *Hang Loose*
Friday 9, October at 8 p.m.
New City Likwid Lounge (10081 Jasper Ave.)
Tickets available at the door

DUSTIN BLUMHAGEN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

In a world where popular musicians are sometimes more likely to trash talk other bands than discuss their own music, it's refreshing to meet an artist who makes music for the love of music, rather than record sales. Raymond E. Biesinger, the frontman for the self-dubbed "modernist noise garage band" The Famines has something to say to the cookie-cutter bands dominating the airwaves.

"There are too many people making that [type of music]. I find that when people ask what your songs are about and musicians say 'well that's for you to interpret,' that's a big fucking cop out. I mean, take responsibility for what you're making. If it is just decoration and meaningless, then you can admit that easily, instead of just removing yourself from the equation. You're an artist damn it. Stand behind what you're doing," says Biesinger.

These are strong words to back up, but after spending some time with Raymond in his studio, it becomes clear that he's an eloquent, confident individual who lives his life surrounded by art in many forms. The Famines display their artistic merit not only through their energetic music, but also through their unique ways of releasing it to the public. Early this year they released a cassette tape that was packaged with a 320-page book of liner notes that included everything you could ever want to know about everyone involved in the process of making it. They just released a 7" that consists of two songs that will make vinyl lovers drool. These are just a couple of ways that the Famines are trying to stand out from the crowd and sustain their artistic image.

"I'm an absolute sucker for purpose in doing

things [...] there's a reason that physicists don't express their theory through song and that books are so popular. I think that I would hate to be creating things of pointless surrealism," he explains.

A musician with a history/political science degree is not exactly common. It almost seems surreal to be discussing rock music one moment and having a political discussion about WWI moments later, but that is how Biesinger sees his music.

"I think I'm a political being, a lot of how I live my life and how Garrett lives his life is dictated by ideals that we hold and it makes complete sense for us to have our songs be purposeful, have our songs well researched, have them posing arguments that people can choose to meet," Biesinger elaborates.

"I find that when people ask what your songs are about and musicians say 'well that's for you to interpret,' that's a big fucking cop out. I mean, take responsibility for what you're making."

RAYMOND BIESINGER
ONE HALF OF THE FAMINES

Everything about the Famines puts forth an image of artistic integrity. From unorthodox album packaging to lyrics based upon an essay on the politics of the English language from George Orwell, the band does things their own way. In a time when bands are often made up of six or seven members, the Famines chose to remain a two-piece, facing the self imposed challenge of making as much noise as possible.

"We live in Alberta — theoretically one of the wealthiest provinces in one of the wealthiest countries in the world. We theoretically can do anything honestly. The most interesting thing you can do in that context is impose limitations on yourself — you can cut off a lot of possibilities and try to make do with less."

Invention of Lying honestly worth the cost of admission



filmreview

The Invention of Lying
Directed by Ricky Gervais and Matthew Robinson
Starring Ricky Gervais, Jennifer Garner, Jonah Hill, Louis C.K., Rob Lowe, and Tina Fey
Now Playing

EVAN MUDRYK
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Ricky Gervais is a chubby little loser who just can't get a date.

Or rather, Mark Bellison (Gervais) can't get a second date with his long-time crush, the shallow and unattainable Anna (Jennifer Garner). He wants to be with her, but people that look like Ricky Gervais just don't get to be with girls that look like Jennifer Garner.

Mark is your classic never-do-well: he's terrible at his job, of barely average intelligence, and only has \$300 to his name. He comes from a long line of losers — that is, until he does what no one has ever done in this high-concept universe: he tells a lie in a world that has always taken everything for truth.

Gervais erroneously posits that lying is the same as withholding sensitive information, and though it's clearly done for comedic effect, it's still somewhat mystifying

Now, a world without lies is a rather huge conceit and mostly improbable, but at the same time, the suspension of disbelief comes quite naturally. It's just as easy to accept as Gervais' near-death experience allowing him to see dead people in *Ghost Town*, except that *Invention's*

concept is a more interesting.

Besides being a world without lies, people also don't hide their feelings to protect others, and are more than willing to blurt out their feelings on a whim. Garner's first line in the film is an admission to masturbating just prior to her date with Gervais. Characters simply announce their feelings, no matter how inappropriate or detrimental. Apparently a world without lies is also one without shame, sensitivity, and a general sense of humanity. Gervais erroneously posits that lying is the same as withholding sensitive information, and though it's clearly done for comedic effect, it's still somewhat mystifying.

The biggest, and by far most compelling, difference between our world and theirs is the treatment of religion, which doesn't exist until Gervais unwittingly describes what we know as Heaven in an attempt to comfort his dying mother, hilariously describing an eternity of happiness living in your own personal mansion with all your dead friends and family. It's also a surprisingly touching scene, and what follows is a mostly interesting examination of the topic, its significance to humanity, and the effect it has on people. Gervais' satire of religion is best reason to see the film, and much better than the disappointing *Year One*.

Mark is God's — or rather, as he calls him, the Man in the Sky's — messenger: the world is his to shape, but nevertheless, he struggles to get the shallow and unlikable Anna to see past his pug-nosed face. In fact, towards the end, I half-expected Gervais to lie and insist that he's beautiful on the inside, and that that is the truest beauty of all. But what follows is almost as equally hackneyed, because he either can't or won't penetrate her Vulcan-like logic of marrying someone with ideal genetic makeup — that is, until the day of her wedding to the handsome jerk and thus Gervais' rival.

Despite being more "Hollywood" than Gervais' previous efforts, it's still funny, interesting, and features a cameo with Stephen Merchant and "Barry from *EastEnders*." But don't take my word for it — I'm a habitual liar.

fairness week

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OTHER EVENTS:

• **Forum on Fairness:** Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Room 2-725 SUB
• **Open House of Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights:** Thursday, Oct. 15, 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 2nd Floor Campus Towers

Scribblenauts adept at providing the sketch of the day

gamereview

Scribblenauts

Published by Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment

Developed by 5th Cell

Now Available on Nintendo DS

MIKE DADURAL

Arts & Entertainment Staff

When it comes to having an innovative handheld gaming experience these days, Nintendo DS reigns supreme. With titles such as *Trauma Center: Under the Knife* and *The World Ends With You*, many companies are trying to find new ways to further enhance the gaming experience. So when faced with the challenge of creating something original and innovative, Washington-based developer 5th Cell gave birth to *Scribblenauts* — an action puzzle game that allows you to solve any puzzle any way you want.

There isn't much of a story behind *Scribblenauts*. You play as a character named Maxwell, who's controlled by simply pointing at the screen in the direction you want him to go. Maxwell's goal is to traverse different worlds, collecting tokens called "starites" by solving various puzzles through any means you see fit.

Though lacking any trace of a plot, the gameplay is where *Scribblenauts* really shines. Purely relying on your imagination, you can bring up a notepad at any point in the level and type an object, which will magically appear on the screen before you. For instance, in the earlier stages of the game, you'll travel to one level where you have to retrieve a starite that's behind a group of soldiers. How would you grab the starite? You could conjure up a machine gun to take down the enemy, or maybe call upon Death himself to wreak havoc upon the soldiers for you. If violence isn't your thing, you could type in "invisibility cloak" and cleverly sneak your way past the



soldiers to retrieve your prize.

It's worth noting, however, that due to the game's "E" rating and the limitations of copy-right, proper names and objects, or items deemed profane or hateful can't be used in the game. So if you wanted to see Gandhi duke it out with Sailor Moon, you're out of luck. But rest assured, there's more than one way to solve each level.

But that's just a taste of the single player campaign; *Scribblenauts* comes with an in-game level editor that is just as fun to play around with as the campaign. Once again, your imagination is tested as you can conjure up various items to your disposal to create your own unique level. Another great feature about the level editor is the fact that you can edit an animal/person/deity's own behavior. Ever wanted to see a tiny dog consume a whole tank? Hell, let's take things a step further: ever wanted to see a tiny dog consume the great old one Cthulhu? Well, by simply adjusting their in-game behaviours, you can make that situation come to life.

As fresh and innovative *Scribblenauts* may look, though, it's definitely not the be-all-and-end-all of puzzle games. Many will find that the controls are very clunky when it comes to making Maxwell go where you want, especially if you have certain obstacles blocking your path. Sometimes when you try to arrange certain objects into position on the screen, especially if you're doing this on the other side of the level, you may find that Maxwell dies while trying to navigate to wherever you're trying to get him. Another gripe with the game is its inconsistent difficulty curve. While there are some pretty straightforward puzzles to solve, you'll run across some levels that are so intricate that the slightest mistake could potentially end up killing you or destroying the starite.

But don't let these faults ruin the experience. *Scribblenauts* is an ambitious, fresh, and innovative title that manages to live up to the hype it created at E3 and can be easily enjoyed by everyone. Though, anyone with a lack of an imagination should steer clear.

FLOP CULTURE

T.C., what exactly are we learning anymore? It's a question that's months overdue, but must be asked, since the name of your channel is now blatant false advertising. Even in your relatively benign twilight years when you were just flipping houses, trading spaces, and having a perpetually sweater-vested man tell frumpy housewives how their ensembles were totally clashing, you still had a few medical shows to give yourselves an air of credibility.

But now, you and A&E seem to be in a frenetic race to the bottom. Congratulations — you're winning. Even if we manage the Herculean task of ignoring the entire *Jon & Kate Plus 8* Guaranteed Book Deals debacle, you've still got such winners as *Toddlers and Tiaras* or *18 Kids and Counting* to help teach us that, by golly, all these height-challenged people who have been wedded to perfection and are having dozens of children that they're putting in beauty pageants live lives just like the rest of us. So we definitely shouldn't feel obligated to watch them in a bizarrely voyeuristic manner just to feel superior and better about ourselves, now should we?

But you've really brought it home, T.C., with *My Monkey Baby*, your show documenting people who keep monkeys as real children, which will probably be seen by anthropologists thousands of years from now as the exact point when "learning" became synonymous with "high-concept idiocy." However, T.C., I can say without reserve that I did learn something: your channel is one fertility-drugged Klanswoman away from being *The Jerry Springer Show* in sheep's clothing.

JOHN KMECH

Flop Culture is a semi-regular feature in which Gateway pop culture pundits shake their literary fists at ridiculous events or celebrities deserving of an inky bitch-slap.

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Zombieland more than brain-eating

filmreview

Zombieland

Directed by Ruben Fleischer
Starring Jesse Eisenberg, Woody Harrelson, Emma Stone, and Abigail Breslin
Now Playing

IAN PHILLIPCHUK
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Despite the ooze and blood-covered, flesh-crazed hordes, *Zombieland* is a place that you'll find yourself wanting to go back to again and again. Ruben Fleischer has crafted a piece of blood-soaked cinema perfection that loses next to nothing on repeated viewings. It's a strange film that almost effortlessly combines comedy, action, and audience-groan-inducing amounts of gore.

Zombieland has four principal main characters: Columbus, Tallahassee, Wichita, and Little Rock, (Jesse Eisenberg, Woody Harrelson, Emma Stone, and Abigail Breslin, respectively), and the rest of the cast is unaccredited and generally wants to consume the aforementioned stars in some truly glorious carnage. The four amigos are named after their eventual destinations to further dehumanize contact between them, in the likely event that social ties could end up endangering personal well-being. This land of chaos, death, and zombies is seen through the eyes of Columbus, Ohio, the 2-million strong capital of the Buckeye state.

Columbus starts the movie outlining the rules, phobias, and complete lack of a social life have kept him alive and give him more depth than traditional zombie movie protagonists. Through his strict rules of the world and the movie's accompanying narration, the audience gets a front-row seat to view not only the brutality of *Zombieland*, but the characters that inhabit it.



Harrelson is belly-laugh inducing as the sharp, implement-loving zombie killer Tallahassee, creating chaos everywhere he moves and providing a strange father figure to the rest of the troop. Stone and Breslin wreak havoc on their compatriots as the mindless hordes of *Zombieland*, but as Columbus points out, girls mature much faster than boys anyways. Tallahassee, Wichita, and Little Rock, along with Columbus, provide an emotional core to the movie while reminding us of the harsh reality that eschews names so as to not doom themselves with emotional attachments.

The flaw in the majority of zombie movies is that too much of the attention, time, and money is spent on making the audience believe the zombies are more than just people in makeup. *Zombieland* and its stylistic compatriot, *Shaun of the Dead*, smack such thinking solidly on the forehead, scold it for its misguided attempts at entertainment, and swing the cameras away from the apocalypse and towards the personalities and people. There are no evil scientists, slow decline of society, or other such nonsense; only a passing line about "patient zero" and a burger from a gas and gulp

(fast food kills, folks) provide any real grounding to the film.

Fleischer, buoyed on by performances bordering on sublime from Eisenberg and Harrelson, keeps the movie light and airy throughout, liberally sprinkling the script with a fair amount of introspective moments to balance out the hilarity. The tone never shifts once in the experience, and watching Tallahassee and Columbus move through the world, killing zombies as they go has a casual familiarity to it.

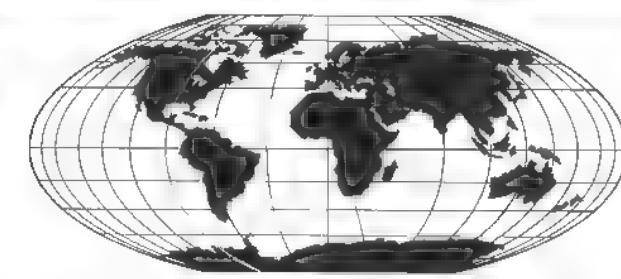
The relationship between the two male leads has an almost buddy-cop feel to it, two compatriots facing down a world gone wrong. It's a plot that could've been ripped from the *Lethal Weapon* lineage with Harrelson's playing the Riggs to Eisenberg's Murtaugh.

Zombieland works not because of the zombies, or because it's hilarious to watch Tallahassee dispatch gobs of the undead, or even for the humor; it's easily one of the best films of the year because it does nothing more than tell the story of four unique characters' collective journey through a world ravaged by the undead, and lets the gore, thrills, and laughs flow naturally outwards from that.

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James Dean nostalgia invades Walterdale

theatrepreview

Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean

Directed by Wendi Pope
Written by Ed Graczyk
Walterdale Playhouse
(10322-83 Ave.)
Runs October 14-24 at 8 p.m., October
18 at 2 p.m.
\$12-16 at the door or tixonthesquare.ca

CAITLIN GORUK
Arts & Entertainment Writer

James Dean. We've all been there, our hearts swooning and stary eyes over the beauty of this man. Get ready to drool once more, along with the "Disciples of James Dean" who know those feelings better than anyone in the Walterdale's production of *Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean*.

The play unfolds the story of a group of women, The Disciples, who in 1955 became captivated by James Dean when *Giant* was being filmed in the nearby city of Marfa, and then their transition into the year 1975 where they reminisce about their infatuation.

Director Wendi Pope — who admittedly wasn't always a member of the James Dean fan club — first acted in the show years ago and decided to further her exploration of the play by taking on

the role of director this time around.

"It's different as an actor than as a director, and I'm always nervous when I direct something I've acted in," Pope admits.

Usually, this can be a challenging task, but Pope found this particular show to be easier than anticipated. The trials she came across were ones of a temporal variety.

"It has a very unusual structure in the fact that it takes place in two different years, 20 years apart. Plus, we have three characters and each of those characters are played by two actors — one in 1955 and one in 1975," Pope explains. Multiple double-cast characters were something Pope had never faced before. If there is no cohesiveness between the characters, then the audience will have a tough time connecting to the story and will lose interest fast — something that Pope had to consider carefully while casting.

"The audience has to believe that it's the same character," Pope notes.

The set proved to be difficult as well, with the script calling for a great amount of detail and authenticity, but Pope decided to keep things more simple.

"[The play] takes place over those 20 years — what year are you going to be authentic to?" Pope asks.

As an answer to that question, the audience can expect more of a minimalist set that allows solidarity between the different years.

Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean is all about "the webs we weave" and the beauty and ugliness that truth reveals. Pope would like the audience to get "the sense of who these people really are [and how] they are such real people in so many ways."

The story is supposed to appeal to a variety of audiences due to James Dean's timeless popularity. It also allows for people who grew up in these time frames to join in on the remembrance.

Pope laughs as she explains that when the Walterdale first decided to do the show they remarked, "Wait a minute, most of the people and the actors in the show won't remember 1975, let alone 1955 [...] but for those of us who are a little bit older, reminiscing about the '70s was quite fun too."

The show aims to capture everyone from the old and the young, the hipsters and the hipsters, as each can all expect to get a little something out of the piece.

For Pope, something she got out of the play was the memorable line, "I'm happy, God damnit!"

"[That line] kind of typifies what the show is about," she explains. "[There's] a lot of deception in this show and a lot of realization that there's all this deception and so what you hear is not necessarily the truth."

Scandal in is the works for this play, but who doesn't love a little taste of deception?



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HOOPFEST SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

U of A Main Gym, 6 p.m.
Regina vs. Windsor



VS.



U of A Main Gym, 8 p.m.
Bishop's vs. Alberta



VS.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

U of A Main Gym, 6 p.m.
Alberta vs. Windsor



VS.



U of A Main Gym, 8 p.m.
Bishop's vs. Regina



VS.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

U of A Main Gym, 11 a.m.
Bishop's vs. Windsor



VS.



U of A Main Gym, 1 p.m.
Regina vs. Alberta



VS.



FILE PHOTO: KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

Pandas bring east and west together at home court for Hoopfest preseason action

NATHAN LIEWICKI
Sports Staff

The Pandas basketball squad will look to defend their home court this weekend when they play host to a trio of highly skilled teams at Hoopfest this Thanksgiving weekend.

Having only played one preseason game to this point — a 72-47 loss to the Saskatchewan Huskies eight days ago in Lloydminster — the Pandas will look to shake off those first-game jitters when they kick off the annual tournament against Regina, Windsor and Bishop's.

"It ended up being a tough game for us [versus Saskatchewan] and I think a bit of youth and inexperience showed up," head coach Scott Edwards noted. "We were down 25-5 after the first quarter, but we really got our act together in the second half, and I was quite proud of the effort overall."

It may have been just one game, and a pre-season game at that, but poor opening-quarter performances like the one against the Huskies doesn't generally bleed confidence. Still, the Pandas can use the lopsided defeat as a motivational tool in preparation against the three formidable opponents they will face this weekend.

"I like our chances against the three teams. We brought them here because they are all competitive and we wanted to have some tough

games right off the bat," Edwards explained. "Certainly our preseason is shaping up to be very difficult, which should help us prepare for Canada West play."

Under the guidance of second-year head coach Alex Perno, Bishop's University will be making its second consecutive appearance at Hoopfest. The Gaiters boast last season's Québec Université League Rookie of the Year, Annick Stephanny Charles, as well as Katy Germain, a First-Team QUBL All-Star.

"These three games are really important for us to start generating some confidence as a group and start learning how to play on the floor together."

SCOTT EDWARDS
HEAD COACH PANDAS BASKETBALL

Windsor is the defending OUA Champions, and Edwards' team will be in tough against them. Nonetheless, there's a familiarity factor between the Pandas and Lancers; they met in the Bronze Medal game at Nationals last season with

Alberta pulling out a thrilling 64-62 victory.

"Windsor is a really big team with long, tall, athletic forwards and a very good little point guard," Edwards pointed out.

The Regina Cougars also competed at Nationals last season as the host, one-upping the Pandas by capturing the silver medal.

"Regina is young this year and they lost a lot of kids from last season, but they still have a talented group and are always competitive in Canada West," Edwards said.

Hoopfest 2009 will feature three of the top-four teams from last season's CIS National Championship and the games will give the young Pandas a chance to prove themselves to the coaching staff.

"These three games are really important for us to start generating some confidence as a group and start learning how to play on the floor together," Edwards commented.

"The girls are starting to ramp themselves up [in practice] and compete even harder and I think as we head into our non-conference schedule, we are seeing them starting to get focused and ready to play."

The Pandas will take to the hardwood at 8 p.m. on Friday versus Bishop's, again at 6 p.m. Saturday against Windsor, and finally against conference rival Regina at 1 p.m. on Sunday in the Hoopfest finale.

TEAM TIDBITS



WINDSOR LANCERS
Location: Windsor, ON
Enrollment: 15,782

The Lancers are the reigning OUA champions, after winning their first OUA crown in program history. Last season was the Lancers' first trip to the national championship, and saw the team lose a close game to the Pandas in the Bronze Medal game by a score of 64-62.



BISHOP'S GAITERS
Location: SHERBROOKE, PQ
Enrollment: 2,294

The Gaiters are the lone team at this year's Hoopfest who weren't a part of last year's national championship in Regina. The Gaiters went 13-12 last season overall, and were eliminated in the first round of the QUBL playoffs last season by the Montreal Carabins.



REGINA COUGARS
Location: Regina, SK
Enrollment: 11,550

The Cougars captured a silver medal last season, falling just short in the championship game against the Simon Fraser Clan. Regina was vying to become the first team in the 38-year history of the women's basketball national championships to walk away with the title on their homecourt.

BEARS
VOLLEYBALL KEY
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U of A Main Gym
*Bears welcome some of the
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for their annual tournament*



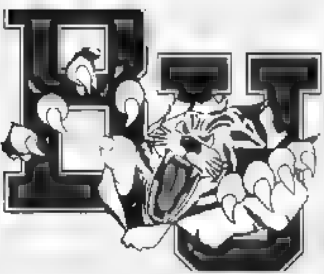
OCTOBER 23-24
vs. Calgary
Oct. 23, 8 p.m.
Oct. 24, 6:30 p.m.
U of A Main Gym
*Regular season opening
weekend*



NOVEMBER 20-21
at Regina
7 p.m.
Regina, SK
*First road-trip of the
regular season*



NOVEMBER 27-28
at Saskatchewan
7 p.m.
Saskatoon, SK
*Final weekend of the
first half*



JANUARY 29-30
at Brandon
7 p.m.
Brandon, MB
*Final regular season
road-trip*



FEBRUARY 5-6
vs. UBC
Feb. 5, 8 p.m.
Feb. 6, 6:30 p.m.
U of A Main Gym
*Final regular season
weekend*

Volley-Bears poised for another title run

ADELA BURKE
Sports Writer

The Bears volleyball team is looking to start the 2009/10 season without some familiar faces from last year's undefeated CIS championship squad, while returning players will have to step into leadership roles for much a younger team. Those coming back will be hoping to use last year's energetic victory on home court over Laval, as a springboard to success in 2009/10.

Six players from last year's championship squad have either graduated or moved on, including 2008/09 CIS Male Athlete of the Year Joel Schmuland, who was a dominant player and vocal leader for Alberta. Long-time head coach Terry Danyluk expects returning players such as last year's starting setter Mike DeRocco, and left-side Thomas Jarmoc — who are both in their final year of eligibility — to provide core leadership for a team with the potential to be just as successful as last year's edition of the Green and Gold.

Danyluk, however, will be looking for all of his players to step up if the Bears hope to play at a level near that of last year.

"I've never really liked to put it all in one person, so I expect the guys to know what needs to be done to step up," Danyluk explained. "There's a lot of good players who can do that for us."

Spencer Leiske and Justin Merta, along with setter Tanner Nault will be expected to join DeRocco and Jarmoc as keys to the Bears' success.

Despite the increased pressure following such an incredible season last year, if anything, that will be used as motivation for the team to try and deal with every other team gunning to beat the reigning CIS champions.

"It's really up to the athletes of this year's team to step up and say, 'Hey, we did some good things last year, why not try to do that again?'" Danyluk said.

The Canada West conference is always wide open and this year will be no different.

"Almost every weekend that we play, we can't take lightly and if we do, it's a big mistake," Danyluk explained.

A steadily improving UBC team under coach Richard Schick (a former Bears player and coach), along with mature and highly experienced squads at Trinity Western and Calgary are only some of the contenders this season within the nation's top volleyball conference.



FILE PHOTO/KRISTINA SULATYCKI

HEADS UP The Bears were atop the CIS top-10 all of last season en route to another national title.

If one thing is clear heading into the season, it's that there will be more than enough competition for the Bears in the coming months of conference play.

Though the program got off to a late start due to five players participating in the Canada Summer Games until August 28, the team had a successful preseason retreat over the last weekend of September, winning two non-conference matches against Trinity Western in straight sets. The west-coast road-trip has been a tradition for the Bears for many years, and allows the coaches and players to get in some valuable team-building and practice on the court, before the more intense competition gets underway.

There's no doubt that there will be changes

out on the court, but with a five-time CIS Coach of the Year at the helm, the Bears have one of the nations elite coaches guiding them once again.

"We'll have to do things a bit different, and some players are going to have to accept potentially different roles as far as what we're asking them to do, but in the end, I think this team has a lot of potential and it's whether they want to take that on or not."

Alberta will have another opportunity this weekend when they head to the University of Regina to play in the Cougars Invitational where they'll face the Mount Royal Cougars, Saskatchewan Huskies and Winnipeg Wesmen in round-robin action prior to the semi-finals and medal rounds.

BY THE NUMBERS

6

Number of returning players from last season's national championship squad including starting setter Mike DeRocco, and left-side Thomas Jarmoc, who are both in their fifth-year

0

Number of losses the Bears suffered last season in the regular season and playoffs. The Bears dominated the Canada West last season and capped the season off with a national title.

17

This season will mark head coach Terry Danyluk's 17th at the helm of the Green and Gold. He's led the Bears to four national championships and eight Canada West titles.

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The greatest basketball player of all-time won't be lighting up this weekend. Hall of Famer and golf fan Michael Jordan has been told to leave the cigars at home when he ventures to be an honorary assistant captain this weekend at the Presidents Cup hosted at the public Harding Park Golf Course in San Francisco. Like Harding Park, we won't let you smoke your cigars at our sports meetings, but come anyways every Thursday at 4 p.m. on the third floor of SUB.

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Puck Pandas open season at home

EMERSON CSORBA
Sports Staff

After a superb 22–2 regular season in 2009/10, the Pandas hockey squad appears to have little room for improvement.

A triple overtime loss to the Manitoba Bisons in the 2009 Canada West finals was a tough pill to swallow, however, the Pandas are anxious to avenge that heartbreaking fall. Head coach Howie Draper and company aspire to recapture the CIS Championship which they last claimed in 2007.

“We want to get back to the Canada West finals and go to nationals. Our ultimate goal is to win the national championship,” coach Draper said, who’s captured six CIS Championships at the helm of the program.

In 2009/10, the Pandas should be among the favourites to contend for not only the Canada West crown, but also a national championship.

“We’ve had more mature teams, but the majority of girls are in their third year, so that’s a pretty good mix,” Draper said. “We’ve got some older players that are more mature and some younger players that are just coming in, so I think we’ve got maturity, experience, youth, and energy. I’m definitely happy with the makeup of the team thus far.”

Among the outstanding puck-handlers on the ice for the Pandas are Stephanie Ramsay, Andrea Boras, and Leah Copeland. Each participated in the National Women’s Under-22 team selection camp this past summer.

Ramsay, the 2009 Canada West Rookie of the Year, showed well enough to secure a spot with the U-22 team, and will don the Maple Leaf this spring.

In terms of training, the Pandas will be fit to endure the rigours of a five-month campaign.

“We’ve been doing off-ice training to get the conditioning levels topped up. We spent the first few weeks working specifically on technical skills



LISA LIN

PICK UP STICKS The Pandas start their 2009/10 campaign at home against Regina.

and are now doing technical training so that we have some semblance of coordination when we actually get into games.”

Already, the Pandas have flourished on the ice, having emerged victorious in five exhibition matches versus Alberta and B.C. opponents.

The Pandas hope to extend their flawless record Friday night within the confines of Clare Drake Arena, where they battle the Regina Cougars. In 2008/09, the Pandas throttled Regina, outscoring their Green and Gold counterparts 34–5 over four games,

but Draper knows the Cougars will force the Pandas to execute in order to win.

“We’re going to have to be ready to play; they have a young team and are very fast. We didn’t have too much trouble with them last year, but I think that was mostly a factor of them having less experience than us. They’re moving along in their program, so I anticipate that they are going to be stronger.

Puck drop is at 7 p.m. on Friday at the Drake, with Saturday’s matinee getting underway at 3 p.m.

NHL headed towards more labour unrest

BREN
CARGILL



Sports
Commentary

September 16, 2004 is a day that will live in infamy in the hearts of hockey fans across North America. This was the day when NHL players were locked out by the 30 owners, and the 2004/05 season, while not officially wiped out, was well on its way to being scrapped by the commissioner’s office.

However, the league came out the other end of it with a better product on the ice due to the new rules. The salary cap, along with revenue sharing, was supposed to even things out between the so-called “haves” and “have nots” in the NHL. Along with that, a seemingly ever-increasing salary cap (as long as league revenue kept going up) was supposed to keep everyone from the owners to the players to the fans happy.

Alas, those happy days seem to be coming to an end as both the National Hockey League Players’ Association and the league’s owners appear to be once again loading up their war chests in anticipation of yet another prolonged lockout in two year’s time. On one side of this looming confrontation, you

have the NHLPA, which is currently in a great deal of turmoil after the coup of former director Paul Kelly. Kelly was removed from power in a move by the old guard, which included Ian Penny (current interim head of the NHLPA), Buzz Hargrove (ombudsman), and former ombudsman Eric Lindros.

The word around the firing is that these men were upset that Kelly had a good working relationship with NHL commissioner Gary Bettman and was not confrontational enough with the league. With Penny and Hargrove — the former head of the Canadian Auto Workers association, who has a reputation for taking his unions into battle and having strikes to get what he wants — leading the way, there’s no doubt that the mindset of the higher-ups of within the NHLPA is to take on the NHL with a hard-line stance. Many feel that there’s a need for revenge against the NHL for the way that the last labour battle ended. And with the economy tanking and the salary cap probably headed in the same direction this coming summer, which in turn will lead to lower salaries for the players, the feelings of resentment are starting to crop up once again.

And this is last thing that the league needs, considering other issues that are currently being dealt with at the present time. For example, there’s the problem of the NHL

players wanting to continue to participate in the Olympics past 2010, including two of the league’s top stars — Alex Ovechkin and Evgeni Malkin — saying that they’d leave in the middle of the season, even if under contract, to play in 2014 in their home country of Russia. This issue is further emboldened by the fact they could just go play in the KHL in Russia and still make good money, which has the league’s union already beating the war drums.

On the other side, you’ve got Gary Bettman and the NHL owners, who think that after the last lockout, they could not only survive another one, but that they would “win” again. Not only that, but there are some owners and general managers who are starting to have some problems with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement, such as revenue sharing with the southern markets, no-trade clauses in contracts, and the fact that all NHL contracts are guaranteed, so they can’t just dump a player if he’s not performing, like in the NFL.

With the NHLPA bringing in a confrontational hierarchy and Gary Bettman’s tendency of using conflict as a first resort, I suggest you enjoy as much hockey as you can over the next two years, because odds are that we’re going to be going through another long cold winter without NHL hockey in 2011/12.

Hockey Bears face off against new-look Dinos

Former Bear Mark Howell, along with a pair of former NHLers lead a re-energized Calgary team

EVAN DAUM
Sports Editor

Fresh off an opening weekend sweep of the Regina Cougars, the Bears hockey squad faces off against the Calgary Dinos in a home-and-home series this weekend. The series will be the Dinos' first of 2009/10, and for a team who missed the playoffs for the first time since 1985 last season, a fresh coaching staff has brought new excitement to a program coming off an embarrassing 2008/09 campaign.

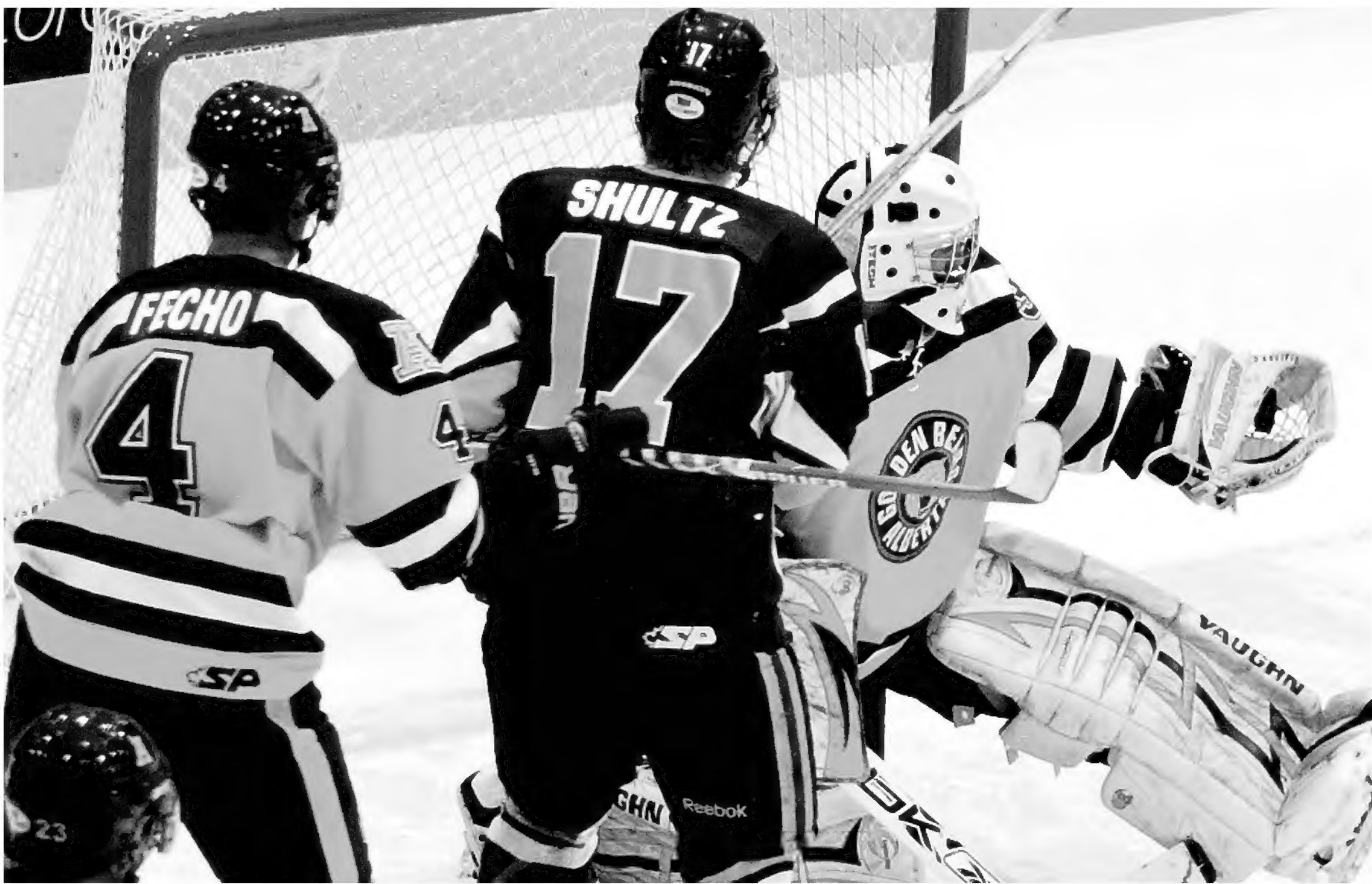
Mark Howell is the new face behind the bench, and Bears head coach Eric Thurston knows Howell will make his mark on a team that by all accounts lacked an identity last season.

"With Mark there, they have a new enthusiasm," Thurston pointed out. "He's going to instill a team toughness, create a hard team to play against. They're going to be physical and try and be tight checking."

Howell, who played university hockey at the U of A alongside current Bears assistant coach Serge Lajoie and was a member of the 1992 national championship team, comes to the Dinos after leading the Westside Warriors of the British Columbia Junior Hockey League and will have a solid lineup backstopped by netminder Jeff Weber.

"He's a big kid and takes up a lot of the net; even when he's down he takes up a good portion of it, so he's a good goalie," Thurston said. "They're going to be a team to reckon with and I expect them to finish in the top four of the conference."

Howell will be joined behind the



PETE YEE

KICKSTART Real Cyr (right) backstopped the Bears to an opening night win over the Regina Cougars last weekend at home.

bench by another former Bear, Cory Cross, Cross, who spent 13 seasons in the NHL, will mostly be responsible for the defence while former NHLer Brad Isbister will handle the forwards. This new trio of coaches has re-energized a team that floundered last season.

The Bears will have to navigate the Olympic-sized ice surface of Father David Bauer Arena when they travel down the QE2 Friday for their first road game of the young Canada West season.

"Playing on that big Olympic-

sized ice surface always adds a different wrinkle because you don't see a lot of that other than the games you play against them in Calgary. Obviously, they get to practice and it's a part of the makeup of how their team is put together."

The Bears will be hoping to continue their superb special teams this weekend after scoring eight goals with the man-advantage against the Cougars at home last weekend, while surrendering only one power-play goal against.

"We've worked a lot on our power play. We've added Reade Wolansky and Ian McDonald on the back-end and they've done a great job," Thurston explained. "Teams are going to try and be physical against us and try and get us off our game, but if your powerplay is clicking, it hampers that ability."

The Bears and Dinos renew their rivalry Friday night in Calgary, with the second half of the home and home going Saturday night at Clare Drake Arena at 7:30 p.m.

sportsshorts

Compiled by Matt Pretty

Pandas Field Hockey

After a momentous win over UBC, the field hockey Pandas (2-3-1) travel to Victoria this weekend for their second series with the Vikes (2-2-2).

The two teams opened the season at Foote Field, and Victoria escaped with a 1-0 win and a scoreless draw. Since then, Alberta has scored nine goals in four games against UBC and Calgary, while Victoria has managed just one goal in four matches against the same two opponents. The Pandas will need to use that offensive momentum to break the Vikes' defence, who have allowed just three goals all season. The start time for both Saturday and Sunday is 12 p.m.

Bears and Pandas Golf

The Alberta golf teams head down the QE2 this weekend for a Ryder Cup match with the University of Calgary. The action tees off at 8 a.m. on both Saturday and Sunday at the Canal at Delacour Golf Course.

Bears Basketball

Bears basketball will kick their pre-season schedule off this weekend with a three-game tour of Southern Ontario.

The University of Toronto Varsity Blues are their first opponent, and that game goes on Friday night at 6 p.m. A quick Saturday trip to Hamilton to play the McMaster Marauders (5 p.m. start time) will be followed by another game in Toronto against the Ryerson Rams on Sunday. New head coach Greg Francis will have a lot of evaluating to do with only five returnees from last year's roster.



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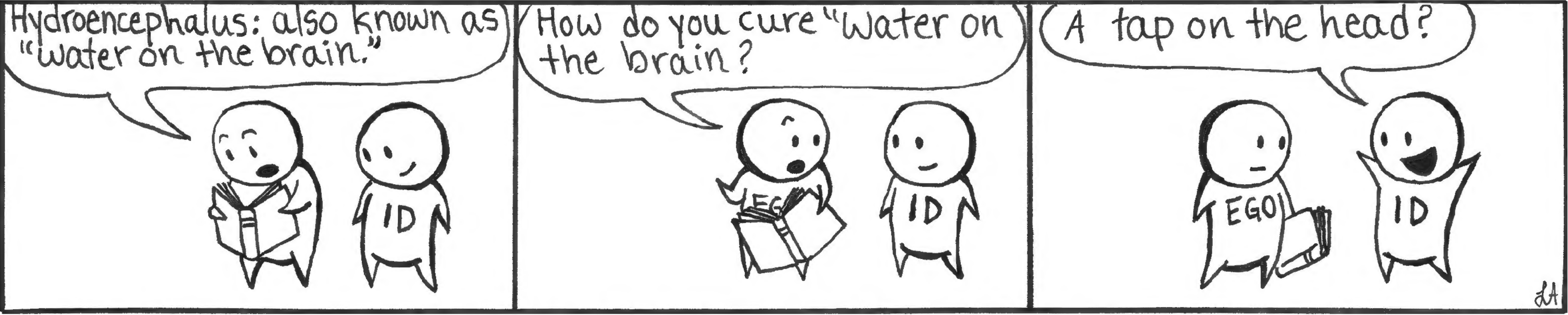
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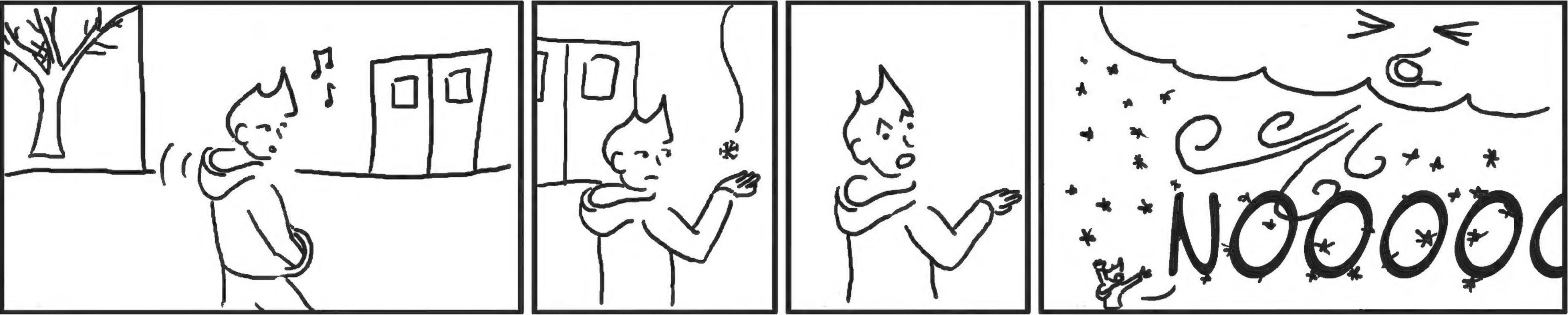
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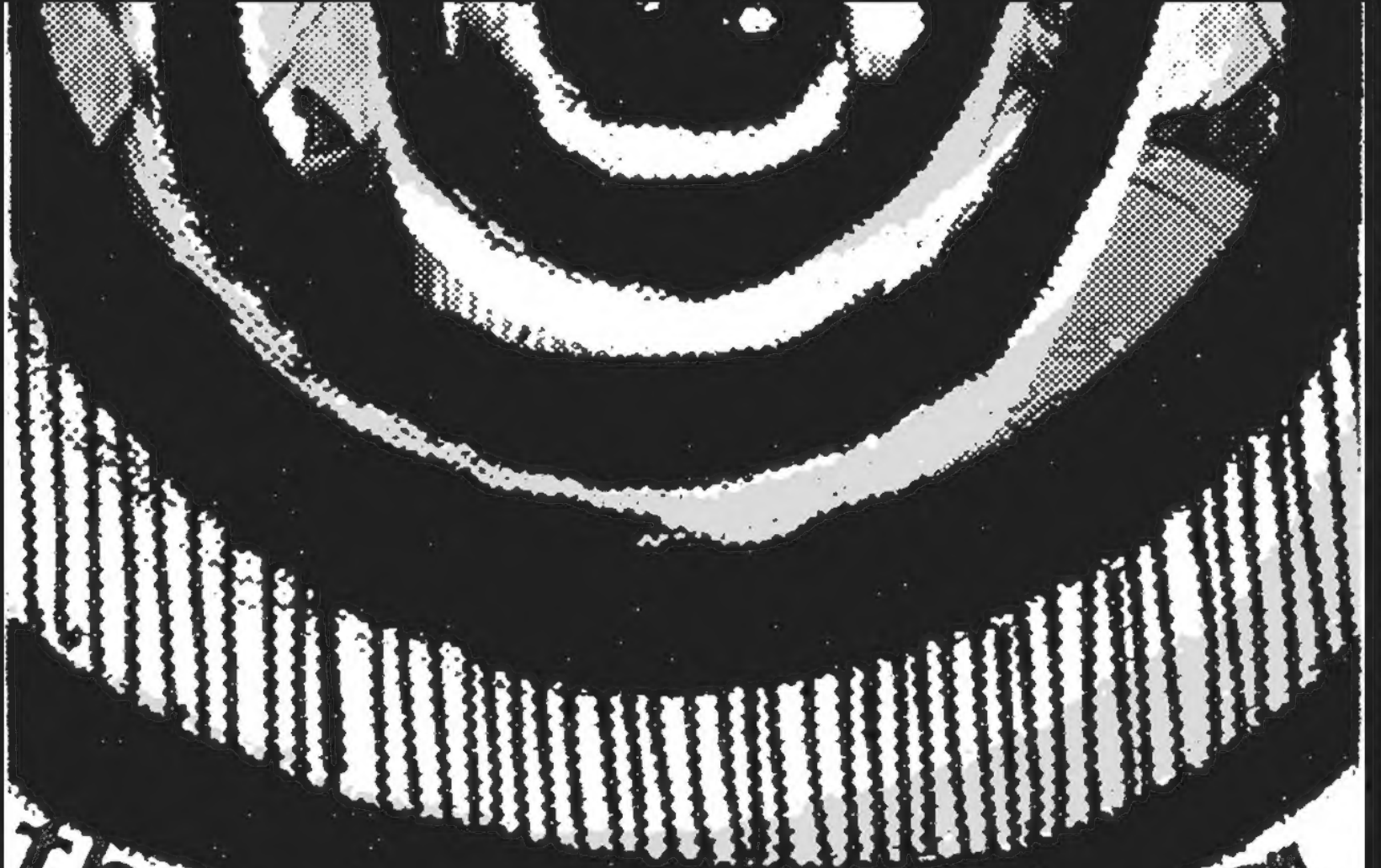
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